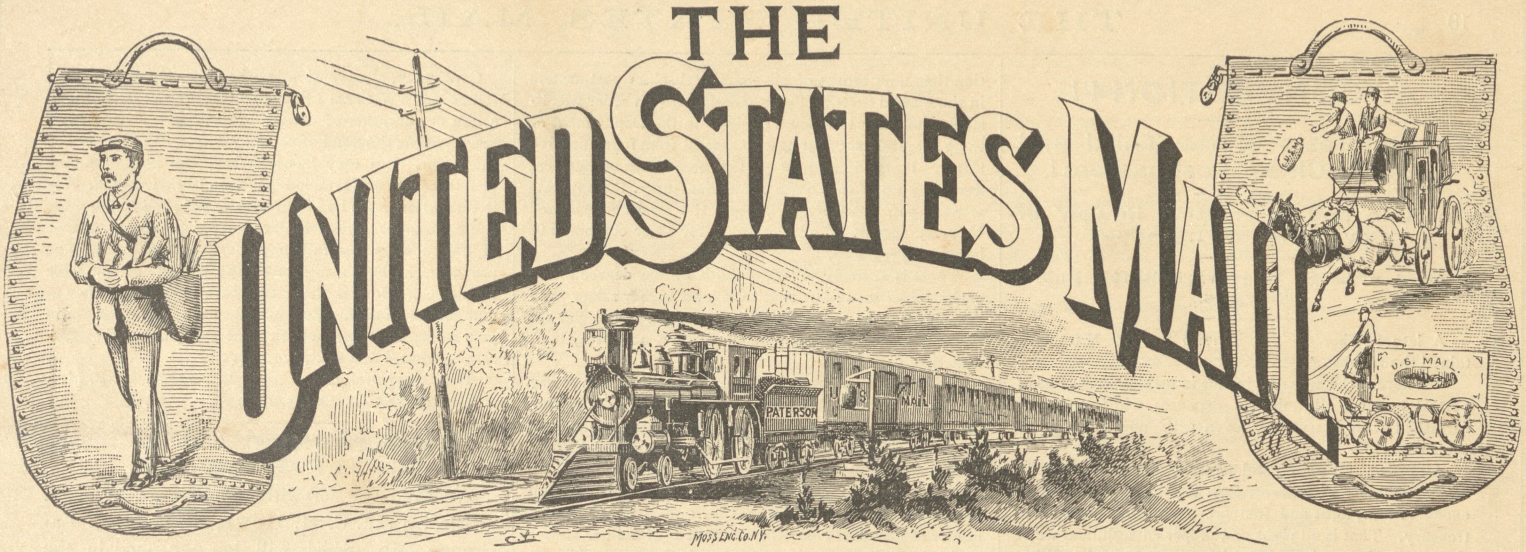
THE UNITED STATES MAIL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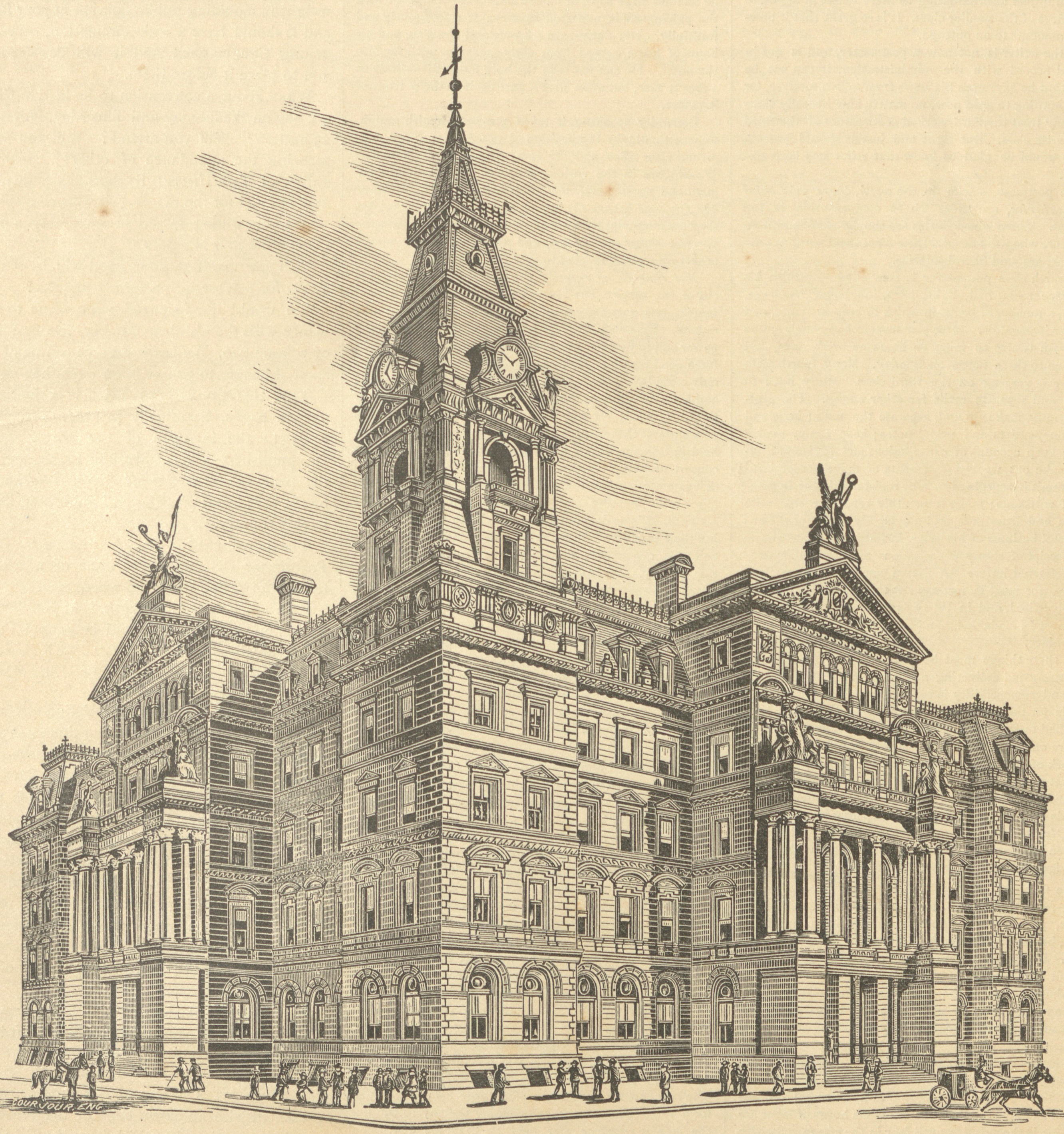


NEW POST-OFFICE, LOUISVILLE, KY.

A CONVENTION!!

The Interests of the Third and Fourth-Class Postmasters!

An Able and Interesting Review of Governmental Injustice

Toward a Large Body of Faithful Public Servants.

A late number of The United States Mail contained the following:

"Where is the sense or justice in making one class of postmasters foot all their own expenses, while others are furnished with everything, even with porters to shine their boots?"

All offices of the first and second class are treated liberally by the Government. All legitimate expenses in excess of rent, light and fuel are paid from the national treasury. That is all right and proper enough, and we of the fourth-class make no complaint because of it. What we object to is, the same justice meted out to the large offices is not extended to those of the third and fourth grade. In no other department of the Government is there so much unjust discrimination as there exists in regard to post-offices of the smaller class. It is so great that it practically amounts to an outrage.

As the writer is not now a postmaster, and is not in political accord with the administration, it can not be stated that he expresses his views from selfish motives, for he has nothing to gain now, no matter how liberally Congress may treat the hard-worked postmasters of the third and fourth class. But right and justice should prevail, and he would be glad to know that relief has been extended.

The postmasters who do the *work*, *those who earn their salaries*, are those whose compensation is the slightest. Those whose duties are simply of an executive character, who walk around their offices and see that *others* work, are paid liberal salaries.

A fourth-class postmaster is compelled to furnish his own office room, fuel, light, pens, ink, paper, mucilage, pencils, a number of books in which to keep accounts, and all other incidentals. Most postmasters keep their offices open from twelve to fourteen hours on week days, and from one to three hours on Sunday. Many fourth-class offices are verging on the third-class. Many have to handle and separate mails for other offices. The postmaster must make up and separate the mail; issue and pay money-orders and postal notes; keep ten or twelve books; keep account of cancellations and registered letters; make out weekly statements of money-order business; remit his surplus funds by registered letter, in presence of witnesses; make a monthly report of star route arrivals and departures, and a quarterly report of the entire postal business of his office, including separate sheets of transcript of stamp cancellations and N. & P. stamps and registered letters. A list of unclaimed letters and other matter must be made out at the end of every month and advertised, and in thirty days, all that is not delivered, must be made up into a package and sent to the Dead Letter office.

All these things must be done while he is receiving, distributing and delivering mail matter. The amount of labor and responsibility is really appalling, and it is not possible for the postmaster to attend to it all, and he is compelled to employ an assistant or clerk. Now right here is where one form of injustice is very manifest. Though the work of the office necessitates the labor of two persons, yet the Government makes no allowance for clerk hire, and whatever is paid out on that score comes *direct* from his own pocket—out of his own paltry income. *This is simply an outrage!* and I can not understand why it has been submitted to during all these years without the most vigorous protest having been made.

The first and second-class offices are allowed everything—room, light, fuel, stationery, pens, pencils, inks, erasers, pins, rubber bands, clerks, janitors and bootblacks, besides receiving from $3,000 to $8,000 per year salary. Many have private secretaries, paid by the Government for doing little or nothing. They are generally the "dude" sons of the high-salaried official, and the soft snap given them by their fathers enables them to live practically in idleness and at the expense of the United States.

Go into other departments of the Government and you will find many who do not put in over five or eight hours of work in twenty-four. The Post-office Department itself affords an example of what I refer to. Its hours of labor are from nine in the morning until four in the afternoon, with a half hour for lunch between twelve and one. Even the janitors of the building are paid a far greater compensation than nine tenths of all the fourth-class postmasters in the United States. Some months ago an order was issued extending the hours of duty in the Department of the First Assistant Postmaster General from four until five thirty. It was occasioned by the great rush of business devolving upon that office consequent upon the appointment of new postmasters, and yet the clerks have kicked viciously against it, and appealed for their old hours of labor to be restored.

There is scarcely a clerk of high or low degree in the entire Department but that receives a higher salary than any fourth-class postmaster in the country, and yet not one of them performs the amount of labor, no, not by half, that they do.

Now, why this great injustice? It will not do to say that a higher order of talent is required in the clerks than in postmasters, for it is not so. After a clerk has been on duty a few months in the Department and has learned the routine of his work, it becomes a second nature to him and little or no ability is necessary to fill his position properly. It becomes mechanical, and is much more a matter of *physical endurance* than it is of brains.

I boldly affirm that there is not a janitor, a scrubber or a sweeper in a Government building in the United States but that receives more liberal compensations, than postmasters of the fourth grade. He is under heavy bonds; he handles large sums of money and comes in contact with the public, and is expected to serve it intelligently and faithfully. His duties are irksome and tiresome and his hours of labor extend from early morning until far into the night. He can not take the holy Sabbath entirely as a day of rest, but must give a part of it to the patrons of his office.

Generally speaking, it takes a man of wealth and influence to obtain the position of postmaster at a first or second class office, and the same potent power is used at Washington in the various departments of the Government and upon Congress to so construct laws *as to favor the few and ignore the many*, and if the latter complain they are contemptuously told that if they don't like their position they can resign, and that there are plenty others who would be glad to take their places.

But that is no remedy for the wrong! I am now out of the service, but I would like to see the third and fourth-class postmasters make a combined effort to seek redress. By combining their strength, they can bring a power and influence to bear upon Congress that will bring forth good results. If a change is ever effected it will only come by *united effort*. All other trades, professions and business interests are represented by popular conventions. I would recommmend to third and fourth-class postmasters that they call a National convention to be held in Chicago at an early day, to deliberate and adopt concert of action in their own behalf. It might be a delegate convention, the postmasters in each county holding a mass meeting and appoint certain of their most active P. M.'s as delegates and contribute toward defraying their expenses. It could be made one of the largest and most respectable assemblies ever called together in this country. *Its influence would be felt and acknowledged by Congress.* In no other way, by no other means, can their formidable power be brought to bear upon "the powers that be" that justice may be done. "Ask and ye shall receive." "Knock and the door shall be opened unto you." You have influence, and you should hesitate no longer in using it in your own behalf. Yon are the people's trusted servants and they are willing that you should be fairly compensated for your services. You have proven that as laborers in the National vineyard you are worthy of your hire. Then step to the front and claim your reward.

Some months ago I wrote an article for the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*, advocating the holding of such a convention as I have referred to, and it was quite favorably responded to by a number of postmasters, but I did not have time to follow it up. But now that you have an organ of your own, there is no earthly reason why you should not take advantage of that fact, and use its columns in the furtherance of your interests. The United States Mail is a particular friend of third and fourth-class postmasters, and has printed many good words for you. I have read it carefully from the first number, and you can congratulate yourselves that you have such a fearless and able defender. In the language of that paper, I would ask: "What is the difference whether the revenues of the Post-office Department are equal to its expenditures, only so millions of money are not wasted upon swindling contractors and useless employés?" I also coincide with The United States Mail, in its suggestion that "the gentlemen who wear tight pants, who encase their hands in kid gloves, who carry switch canes, who draw large salaries and perform little labor, should be taken off the pay-rolls," and the money which is now paid to them be distributed equally between the over-worked and poorly paid third and fourth-class postmasters.

Gentlemen, a convention is your only remedy!

There is a National Letter Carrier Association, and also a like organization of Postal Clerks, and yet there are scarcely four thousand of the former and five thousand of the latter. But they have *united*, and have been enabled to effect considerable legislation in their behalf. The letter carriers have had their salaries adjusted two or three times, and, during last winter, secured a leave of absence of fifteen days, on full pay, during each year. The postal clerks have also secured the passage of favorable legislation. Now, if those two bodies of men, so few in number and influence, compared to the fifty thousand in your ranks, can advance their interests by national organization, what, I ask, could you not do?

Very respectfully, C. H. HOWE, Ex-P. M.
La Grange, Mo., Oct. 5, 1885.

A WORD TO THIRD AND FOURTH-CLASS POSTMASTERS.

We hand you herewith an advance copy of an article by Mr. C. H. Howe, Ex-P. M. at La-Grange, Mo., which will be published in the November issue of The United States Mail.

This communication, coming from a gentleman not now in the service, will have great weight in moulding public opinion in your favor, and it should have a wide circulation, especially among Congressmen, and it will devolve upon you to place it before them.

What about a convention to be held in Chicago, say on Wednesday and Thursday, November 25 and 26? Will you attend? Will you aid in securing the attendance of others? Shall the Editor of The United States Mail go ahead and arrange for the meeting of the convention?

Are you willing to aid in sustaining a paper devoted to your interests?

Will you manifest your good will by sending $1.00 for a subscription for six months?

We would like to enroll your name to commence with the October number, the first issue of volume two. We know that we can be of substantial benefit to you in more ways than one.

The United States Mail is a journal of sixteen pages, beautifully printed, devoted entirely to the interests of the postal service. Its publishers—The Lakeside Press—are also the printers of the *Official Postal Guide*, and is one of the largest printing and publishing houses in this country.

The paper has the official endorsement of the Postmaster General, every issue of which contains information found no where else.

"In *unity* there is strength." If you will join in this movement, *victory* will be yours! Yours very truly, JOHN H. PATTERSON,
Editor U. S. Mail.

The American Medical Association meets once a year, and is made up of over a thousand of the most learned and distinguished physicians in the land. The lawyers have a National Bar Association of which Senator Evarts is the president. The bankers meet every September to discuss finances, and photographers come together to exhibit their work and talk over new methods in art. The wool growers, the stock raisers, the carriage manufacturers, and a thousand and one other trades and professions have National Associations. In fact every line of industry seems to appreciate the value of *combined effort, except postmasters!*

Gentlemen! Waken up!! Turn around!! Look about!! If you don't, you'll get left!

Any postmaster who will send us $1 for The United States Mail for six months, will be presented with an extra copy of the November number. *The offer will hold good until October 25th.* We go to press that day for next month.

From the Stand-point of a Third-class Postmaster.

Black River Falls, Wis., Sept. 10, 1885.

Editor U. S. Mail: Postmasters of the third-class are the hardest-worked and poorest-paid, of any branch of the postal service. I have been in my office from 6:30 a. m. to 8:30 p. m., during the week, and from 8:00 a. m. to 10:00 a. m. on Sunday. I have to handle the mail for three mail routes, and there is no other post-office within ten miles. I furnish my own building and fixtures, and pay insurance and taxes on same to the amount of $50 per annum. I pay my own clerk, or do the work myself. I am allowed $300 a year for clerical assistance in separating the mails for the mail routes. The cash, cool and hard, invested in the building and fixtures, is $1,500, while my salary is $1,400.

Salaries of postmasters of the second and third class are based on the gross receipts of their respective offices. There is nothing unfair about that, except that postmasters of the first and second class have their buildings, all fixtures, and light, fuel and stationery furnished them by the Government, while we, of the third-class, have to furnish our own building, fixtures, light, fuel and stationery, and also pay our own clerk-hire, or do the work ourselves.

This is a fair and honest representation of the situation of postmasters of the third-class—some not so bad, others worse.

We are not even allowed a commission for collecting the rent on *our own boxes.*

An article in a recent number of the Mail said that the box-rents were divided between the postmaster and the Department. This is not always true. It is improbable, under the law and rulings of the Department, for a postmaster of the third-class to get over $100 out of the box-rents, even though they amount to $500 or $600 per annum. For example, when the gross receipts of an office, aside from box-rents, is $3,500, the salary is $1,500. You add the box-rents of five or six hundred dollars, to those gross receipts, and you have four thousand or more dollars, and yet the salary is still $1,500. Not one cent of the box-rents goes to the postmaster. This office is doing as much business, or more, in fact, than it did in that part of 1883, under the old law, when postmasters received all the box-rents as a *part* of their salary. Then this office was worth $1,800 per annum.

The injustice to postmasters of the third-class came about by the Department counting the box-rents as a part of the gross receipts of the office. Aside from this the law is all right, and works no injustice or injury to any one.

The gross receipts of an office should be from the sale of everything the Department keeps for sale, such as stamps, envelopes, etc. The box-rents should not be counted, for the reason that the Department does not own the boxes. It never contributed one cent toward their original purchase, and never appropriated a penny toward keeping them in repair. There would be just as much right and justice in the Government insisting upon counting in as the gross receipts of my office the income from two or three houses I happen to own, as for it to deprive me of the box-rents on the boxes my money bought and paid for.

The law is a great wrong and works a hardship upon a worthy class of men and should be speedily amended. It falls upon that class of postmasters who are the least able to bear its burden. The late Postmaster General Howe was of the same opinion, and so expressed himself in his annual reports, and so also did Postmaster General Hatton.

Recognizing the injustice of the law, Congress attempted to remedy it last winter by placing third-class postmasters upon the same footing with those of the second-class as far as rent, light and fuel is concerned. I have the law before me and there is no discrimination against us. The same language is applied to each class. When I first read the law I said: "Well, justice has come at last, even at this late day," but now comes the announcement in the August number of your valuable paper, over the signature of J. W. Nicholl, Law Clerk of the Post-office Department, informing us that the appropriation for rent, light and fuel is all used up on the offices of the first and second class, and thus we are as usual left out in the cold.

Postmasters of the third-class expect fair treatment at the hands of the Government, and they could be allowed a fair sum for those three items of expense, according to the terms of the law, and the deficiency, whatever it might be, could be reported to Congress, and that body of able statesmen could wrestle with the question of making an appropriation to meet that deficiency.

Why not apply the money so appropriated to third-class offices *first*, and let those of the first and second-class hold the bag awhile, come up in the rear, so to speak? It is a poor rule that will not work both ways. We perform all the hard work and furnish our own offices, and we have a right to expect a remedy.

We P. M.'s in Wisconsin expect Congress to grant us immediate aid this winter. We know Col. Vilas to be an upright man, a great lawyer who can quickly discover an injustice, and we turn to him in the hope that he will give us the benefit of his influence. Very Respectfully,

JOHN PARSONS, P. M.

There is not a body of men in the world, it don't make any difference who they are or where they come from, who have the political influence possessed by third and fourth-class postmasters. Then why don't you use it to better your financial condition? Try it.

If you don't live in the same town as does your member of Congress, you can write him a letter and send him a copy of The United States Mail, and thus help along in the good work.

Every third and fourth-class postmaster should consider himself a committee of one to educate their member of Congress upon the matter of just compensation to offices of that grade.

A National Postmaster's Association need not have *political* purposes in view. Its objects should be of a financial character. In other words: the betterment of their condition.

If three or five hundred postmasters were to come to Chicago and form a National Association, it would have immediate influence upon the postal legislation of the country.

The warm and generous words of commendation many postmasters are moved to extend in relation to this journal, moves us to conclude that we are doing a good work.

We think we could guarantee an address from Ex-Postmaster Generals Gresham and Hatton, if a convention convened in this city. They are both residents of Chicago.

The box rents of all fourth-class offices should be given to the postmaster entire. Congress would fix it in that way if the right kind of an effort was made.

The United States Mail really needs no commendations, for its *contents* shows its value and importance to every person connected with the service.

No paper could have higher endorsements than those accorded The United States Mail. See page 47 of the October *Postal Guide.*

Out of 5,000 postal clerks in the employ of the Department, 2,000 of them are members of their National Benevolent Association.

We print the *Official Postal Guide*, and there is no clashing of interests between that publication and The United States Mail.

We would have no difficulty in getting reduced rates, not only from railroads, but also from the leading hotels of Chicago.

See page 47 of the *Postal Gnide* for October. Note what the Postmaster General says about The United States Mail.

All communications should be addressed to The United States Mail, Chicago.

CAN ANYONE TELL?

It is an unexplainable mystery why the fifty-three thousand postmasters in the United States have not as yet formed a National Association.

They are supposed to be gentlemen of even more than *average* intelligence. The general public has never once suspicioned that they would, as a class, be slow to avail themselves of whatever advantages *united* action would insure; and yet here are thousands upon thousands of men who are generally thought to be much more shrewd and keen than their fellows, who have allowed golden opportunities to improve their position to slip by unimproved.

We trust that our democratic friends who are so rapidly coming into power will delay this matter no longer. If they do, the first thing they know their terms of office will expire, and they will be short in their income thousands upon thousands of dollars.

We can understand why republicans will take no active interest in this enterprise, for they are all expecting to step down and out; but if democrats evince no interest, our consternation will know no bounds.

It would be the part of prudence to effect a a National organization at once, so as to effect some needed legislation this winter, for in no case would any enactment go into effect until the end of the fiscal year, June 30th, 1886. The appropriations for the postal service passed at the last session of Congress, will all expire at that time, and those passed the coming session will go into effect July 1st, at which time sixteen months of the present administration will have gone.

It is plain to be seen, therefore, that there is no time to lose. Every day and week that it is deferred, is just so much out of your pockets.

There is nothing improper or impolitic in such a movement. You do not compromise your honor or integrity by trying to improve your position, but you do thereby give evidence of your fitness to hold the office of postmaster.

Even the butchers of the United States have a National Association and meet once a year to confer together. One of the questions discussed at the last session was in regard to the best method of killing animals, whether to knock them in the head with an ax or cut their throats with a knife.

The United States Mail is $2.00 for a year, $1.00 for six months and 20 cents for a single copy. We can hardly believe that any live, progressive postmaster would hesitate to support a journal so completely devoted to his interests. We do not even admit a line of advertising but give all our space to our readers.

Any postmaster who will send us $2.00 for The United States Mail for one year *before* October 31st, will be presented with a superb cabinet size photo of Postmaster General Vilas or First Assistant Stevenson. Take your choice.

The letter of Mr. John Parsons, P. M. at Black River Falls, Wis., printed in this issue, has peculiar merit. He presents some of the grievances of third-class postmasters in a strong light. Read it.

Whatever you may be inclied to say or do, it would be especially agreeable to avoid delay.

LEGAL OPINIONS

OF

Hon. EDWIN E. BRYANT,

Attorney General for the Post-office Department.

On admitting the American Advertiser Reporter as Second-Class Matter.—The following opinion was made September 23d, and was addressed to Hon. A. E. Stevenson, First Assistant Postmaster General:

As I understand it, the New York office declines to admit this publication to the pound rates because its published list of firms in a certain line gives a rating of their financial standing by means of letters or figures which have a meaning indicated by a key which is furnished to each subscriber, and only those who know the key can understand the rating given.

I do not think this is a proper or legal ground for exclusion. The characters or language in which a publication is printed do not exclude it from the mails if it is printed matter. The information it contains may be said to be of a public character since every subscriber is enabled to read it.

The *Wholesale Grocer's Bulletin*, at Chicago, the *Commercial Union*, of Janesville, Wis., and the *Mining Stock Register* publish similar lists, furnishing the key to their rulings only to subscribers. These papers are admitted to the pound rates, the latter at the New York offices. I do not understand why they admit the *Mining Stock Register* and exclude the *Advertiser Reporter*.

Can a Lady be appointed Postmaster who is over the age of eighteen but under the age of twenty-one?—The following opinion was submitted to the First Assistant Postmaster General September 28th:

I have the honor to return the enclosed communication of Hon. J. G. Cannon, of Illinois, referred to me from your office, and to say in reply to your request for my opinion upon the legal question involved, as follows:

It appears that at a post-office in Illinois, a lady has been appointed postmaster who is over the age of 18 years, but under the age of 21 years; the question arises, is this a lawful appointment?

The Constitution of the United States does not prescribe that only persons of full age may hold office. As to Senators and Members of Congress and President, a qualification as to age is made. As to other officers, the Constitution and the Statutes of the United States are silent.

Many instances of the appointment of minors by Presidents have occurred to civil as well as military offices. Notably may be cited the case of Stephen T. Mason, whom General Jackson appointed as Secretary of the Territory of Michigan when but 19 years of age. He became acting Governor of the territory before he was 21 years of age.

The Statute of the United States authorizes women to be postmasters. The only thing in the nature of a qualification for the office of postmaster is that prescribing an oath of office and an official bond. There is no incapacity for taking the oath in this case, and the question narrows down to the inquiry whether she, the postmaster so appointed, can give a valid bond.

By the Statutes of Illinois a female is of full age for all purposes at 18 years. In that State, then, her bond is valid, and she is precluded from disaffirming it or pleading infancy. If the law of the place of the contract governs the bond which she executes, as postmaster, and the place of the contract be the State of Illinois, where it was in fact signed both by the postmaster and her sureties, there is no question as to its validity. It is in that view neither void nor voidable. But there is authority for holding that the bond is to be deemed as to be executed at the headquarters of the Government, at Washington (6 Pet. 172, 7 Pet. 435), and that the State law does not govern, but that the liability of the parties must be governed by the rule of the common law.

If this rule were to be applied on the part of the Government, it is not unlikely that the same rule would apply on behalf of the bondsmen; and, under the common law, perhaps the postmaster might plead infancy as against her liability on her bond.

But be this as it may, the sureties are liable in any event. This principle seems to be well settled, namely, that the sureties of an infant are bound by their obligation although the infant may himself avoid the obligation (30th Vt., 122; 7 Hill, 116; 17 Md., 283; 43 Ind., 103; 63 Mo., 486; 109 Mass., 502: 17 Iowa, 392).

Since then the sureties can be held, in any event, even if the principal on the bond might avail herself of the personal privileges of infancy, and in view of the fact that she is liable to all penal provisions of the postal laws for any official dereliction, I see no reason to question the legality of her appointment nor to revoke it.

Complications arising out of Third-class Post-offices relegated to the Fourth-class and of Fourth-class being raised to the Third.—The following opinion was made October 1st, and was addressed to the Postmaster General:

The enclosed communication of Chief Clerk Nash was referred by you to me for my opinion upon the questions therein propounded.

In compliance with your directions I have given the subject attention, and respectfully submit the following opinion:

The Constitution of the United States places the power of appointment thus: "He (the President) shall nominate and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint * * * * all other officers of the United States, whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by law, but the Congress may by law vest the appointment of such inferior officers as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of law or in the heads of Departments." (Const. Art. 2, Secs 2).

Congress has vested the power of appointment of postmasters of the three first classes in the President, and by and with the consent of the Senate, and of fourth-class postmasters in the Postmaster General.

The President can no more appoint a postmaster of the fourth-class than the Postmaster General can appoint one of the first-class.

Congress having the power of establishing and discontinuing offices, prescribes the limitations of offices and their classification, and provides that post-offices of the three first classes shall exist in certain contingencies, and shall in certain contingencies be fourth-class offices; their existence at all and their classification is determined by the Postmaster General.

Under the law, a fourth-class office ceases to exist when its revenues reach a certain amount, and it becomes an office of a higher grade, and the power of appointment thereto at once vests in the President.

The Statutes to be considered in the examination of this question are as follows:

"Postmasters of the first, second and third classes shall be appointed and may be removed by the President by and with the consent of the Senate, and shall hold their offices for four years, unless sooner removed or suspended according to law; and postmasters of the fourth-class shall be appointed and may be removed by the Postmaster General," etc. (Act July 12, 1876, 19 Stat. p. 80.)

"Postmasters shall be divided into four classes, as follows: The first-class embrace all those whose annual salaries are three thousand dollars or more than three thousand dollars; the second class shall embrace all those whose annual salaries are less than three thousand, but not less than two thousand dollars; the third-class shall embrace all those whose annual salaries are less than two thousand dollars, but not less than one thousand dollars; the fourth class shall embrace all postmasters whose annual compensation, exclusive of their commissions on the money-order business of their offices, amount to less than one thousand dollars." (Act of July 12, 1876, 19 Stat. p. 80.)

"The respective compensation of postmasters of the first, second and third classes shall be annual salaries, assigned in even hundreds of dollars and payable in quarterly payments, to be ascertained and fixed by the Postmaster General from their respective quarterly returns to the Auditor of the Treasury for the Post-office Department, or copies in duplicate thereof, to be forwarded to the First Assistant Postmaster General for four quarters immediately preceding the adjustment, at the following rates, namely:" (Here following the rates based upon the gross receipts of the offices.) (Act March 3, 1883, 22 Stat., p. 600.)

"Sec. 3.—The Postmaster General shall make all orders relative to the salaries of postmasters, and any change made in such salaries shall not take effect until the first day of the quarter next following the order; and the Auditor shall be notified of any and all changes of salary.

"Sec. 4.—The salaries of the first, second and third classes shall be readjusted by the Postmaster General, the first adjustment (under this act) to take effect simultaneously with the reduction of the rates of postage, and thereafter at the beginning of each fiscal year," etc.

By the Statute above quoted it will be seen that postmasters of the three first classes are presidential, while postmasters of the fourth-class are of an inferior class, whose appointment is vested in the Postmaster General. But the salary to which the postmaster is entitled fixes his classification, and the salary to which he is entitled is fixed by the gross receipts of his office, a constantly varying quantity.

When the salary rises above $1,000, there is an office created by the operation of these statutes, which the President is vested with power to fill. When it descends below $1,000, there is an office which the Postmaster General is vested with power to fill by appointment.

There is nothing in the Statute to conflict with this view, unless it be the words fixing the tenure of the offices of the first three classes, "and shall hold their offices for four years, unless sooner removed or suspended according to law."

But this tenure is subject to termination in the contingency that the Postmaster General discontinue the office.

(Ware *v.* United States, 4 Wall., 617, 633.) In this case the Court says (at page 633): "Possessing that power (of discontinuance of the office), it was lawful for the Postmaster General to exercise it, notwithstanding the postmaster had been appointed by the President, by and with the consent of the Senate, because the incumbent accepted the appointment, subject to the legal contingency that the post-office might be discontinued."

Is it not equally logical to say that, notwithstanding the four years tenure, he accepted it subject to the legal contingency that the post office might be discontinued as a third-class office, or might cease to exist as such? It is doing violence to the statute to hold that this four years tenure shall continue, although the officer, in the mean time, becomes not a postmaster of the third-class, but of a class which the President is vested with no power to appoint. As the Presidential appointee holds his office subject to the legal contingency of its being determined by the act of the Postmaster General in discontinuing the office, so he holds it subject to the legal contingency of its determining as a "presidential" office, and becoming, instead, another office, appointed by another power, and removable by other authority and by other procedure.

It may be argued that this construction works inconvenience unnecessarily, by making a break in an official term. To this it may be answered, that it does not do so any more than the other contingency does, when the office grows from a fourth-class to a "presidential" one. The same inconvenience is caused, that of a "break off" in the tenure of the incumbent In the one case the office has become larger than the fourth-class postmaster can hold: in the other, the office has become smaller than a third-class postmaster can hold. To say that the Presidential appointee can hold for his four years, notwithstanding his office has become, meanwhile, a fourth-class office, is to say that a third-class officer can be a fourth class,—that an officer can hold an office from which the Postmaster General has power to remove him, and yet can not be removed except by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. It seems to me a sounder rule to apply, that when the office becomes a fourth-class office, the right of the third-class postmaster to hold determines, and the right of the Postmaster General to appoint and remove begins.

If these views are correct, the answers to the questions propounded to me are easy.

The first question is:

"Where a postmaster has been suspended and his successor appointed, but not confirmed by the Senate, and the office, under readjustment meanwhile, is relegated to the fourth-class, shall there be a new commission and bond?"

I answer, yes. The office under suspension was terminated by the effect of the readjustment. There is no office for the Senate to confirm to, or the President to appoint to after confirmation. The appointment should be made by the Postmaster General.

The second question is:

"Where a postmaster has been appointed, and confirmed by the Senate, and his office is afterwards reduced to the fourth-class, the commission having been made out for four years, and he having been confirmed for that time, shall there be a re-appointment and new commission issued in such cases, or shall he serve out the residue of his term as originally commissioned."

I answer, there should be a new commission, signed by the Postmaster General, and, of course, a new bond. The sureties to a fourth-class postmaster, though the form of his bond is substantially the same as to the conditions, in point of fact assume a different liability from that of the sureties of postmasters of the other classes. The temptation and opportunity of the fourth-class postmaster, or officer paid on that basis, are greater to make false returns. His liability to mistake is greater, having to keep an account of cancellations, in order to determine his commissions, and his mistakes and frauds are less liable to detection than in the accounts and returns of other postmasters, and this fact furnishes an additional reason for a bond with sureties who are informed, when they undertake their liability, that they are assuming the responsibilities of suretyship to a fourth-class postmaster.

NOTE.—The same question was presented by the Postmaster General to Attorney General Garland, and he reached the same conclusion in his opinion.

Should Return Postage be Collected on Third and Fourth-class Matter inadvertantly sent to places that are not Post-offices?—The following opinion was made September 22d, and was addressed to the Postmaster General:

I beg to call your attention again to the enclosed matter which was submitted to you some months ago for your ruling, upon a question of some importance to postmasters.

The case is this: There is much third and fourth-class matter mailed which is directed to places that are not post-offices. It is misdirected, and, therefore, not mailable, strictly, and upon being discovered the postmaster should withdraw it from the mails. If discovered by the postmaster at the place of mailing, and he knows whence the matter came, or who mailed it, he returns it for better direction.

But when this matter bears a return request, if not called for, and has been inadvertantly mailed and sent to the place of destination and on its way is found to be misdirected, it is usual to return it to the sender, and by many postmasters "return postage" is charged.

The senders insist that no return postage should be charged, but that as the matter was sent from the office of mailing when it was not mailable, it should be returned for better direction at the cost of the Department, and then mailed to the proper destination, all for one postage.

The enclosed papers show a case of this kind. H. O'Neill & Co., of New York, mailed a large number of catalogues (third class matter) paying six cents postage on account of weight. Many of these were misdirected,—that is, mailed and addressed to places that are not post-offices. The New York office failed to notice the misdirection, and sent them broadcast. The wrappers bore a return request and large numbers of them came back with six cents return postage charged. O'Neill & Co. complain bitterly of this. They insist that the New York office was in fault for sending out this misdirected matter, and that as it was unmailable the mailing clerks were bound to know it, and that as they mailed it instead of returning it for better direction, the trouble to which the service has been put was their own fault.

My opinion is that the claim of H. O'Neill & Co. is unjust. I have embodied my views of their claim in the enclosed letter. Should you be of the same opinion, the letter is suggested as an answer to their appeal.

The laws and rulings of this Department as they now stand do not meet the case. R. S., Sec. 3,929 provides only for the return of letters by endorsement of request on the outside.

Postal Regulations 465, as amended by Postal Guide, Par. 686, p. 697 (January 1885, issue), reads:

"Letters and all mail matter prepaid at first class rates of postage may be returned to the sender without additional charge for postage; but all other mail matter is subject to an additional charge for postage for returning the same. When the sender of matter which would be subject to return postage shall, by endorsement upon the wrapper or otherwise, request its return, postmasters should comply with such request within the time fixed by the sender,—if no time is fixed, then at the end of thirty days,—first charging the matter, however, with the necessary return postage, and indorse the same 'return postage due — cents,' and the postmaster at the office to which such matter is returned shall affix thereto postage-due stamps sufficient to cover the return postage and collect the same from the sender before delivering such returned matter. If the sender should refuse to pay return postage, the matter must be disposed of as 'refused.' If postage stamps or money sufficient to pay the return postage should be furnished by the sender, the postmaster at the returning office shall affix to the matter returned the necessary stamps, and cancel them, the same as if the matter had been originally mailed at his office."

I would respectfully suggest that this ruling be amended by adding thereto: "When third or fourth-class matter fails to reach its destination by reason of misdirection not discovered until after it has left the office of mailing, it shall not be withdrawn from the mails if it contains a return request, but shall be returned to place of mailing, and return postage collected thereon"

DR. JOHNSON said that perfect letter writers were rarer in his day, than honest men.

NO man carrying on an extensive business should fail to copy all his correspondence.

Answers to Correspondents.

Questions pertaining to the postal service will be answered in this column, and should be written on separate pieces of paper from business correspondence.

All should feel free to address letters of inquiry as often as necessity may require.

Answers will be made by mail when desired if postage is inclosed. Letters of inquiry, only, should be addressed to JOHN H. PATTERSON, *Editor* U. S. MAIL, *Chicago, Ill.*

No. **12.** OSAGE.—Ruling 217, page 651, January (1885) *Postal Guide*, will give you the desired information. Yon will see, by the above ruling, that all persons offering second-class (transient newspapers) for mailing, are entitled to send the same through the mails to any points in the United States, at the rate of one cent for each four ounces or fraction thereof.

No. **13.** VINCENT.—You state that you have collected key deposits from a number of your patrons; that you own your boxes, and that you desire to exercise your discretion as to the collection of key deposits; that you have not collected the amount from some of the patrons, under the ruling of the Department giving you discretion in the matter. Such being the case, it would be proper for you to redeem the keys, or return the deposit money therefor, if you desire to do so, in order to have a uniform rule at your office, taking a receipt for the amount you refund, and make a statement of the facts to the First Assistant Postmaster General.

No. **14.** TALLULA.—The mails should be opened by you as soon as received.

No. **15.** KEYPORT—One notification to a publisher, that his publication is not taken out of the post-office, is all that the Postal Regulations require postmasters to send, but there is nothing to prohibit the sending a second one, in the event of the first being disregarded. Some record should be made by you when you send such notices, in order that you will be protected in case complaint is made by the publishers that you have not sent the notices.

No. **16.** FOOTE.—The Postal Laws and Regulations are not furnished to private individuals. They are furnished to postmasters and the employés of the Postal Service only.

No. **17.** HARPER.—Third-class matter can not be distributed through your boxes without the proper postage being prapaid thereon. If you receive a package of third-class matter for distribution, upon which the bulk rate of postage only is paid, you can not deliver it until the proper postage is paid upon each package to one person or address. Circulars are frequently addressed to postmasters, and the third-class rate of postage is paid upon the package in bulk, but no postage is paid upon each separate circular or package which it is desired the postmaster shall deliver through his boxes. If such matter was delivered without the payment of postage, it would be a violation of law, which requires postage to be prepaid upon each package to one address.

18. RUSSELL.—You state that you are the successor in business, having purchased the machinery and fixtures, and propose to continue the same under a new name, you being obliged to do so, being one of the partners in the present firm; the other members of the firm who who go out, own the name E. Harris & Co., and intend to at once commence business under that old name. It seems to us that you are not entitled to the mail arriving for the firm of E. Harris & Co. They are using the name under the terms of the dissolution, and are entitled to receive the mail addressed to that name.

No. **19.** NEWBERN.—A husband has no right to order a postmaster to refuse to deliver to his wife letters that are addressed to her. A postmaster should disregard such an order, and should deliver the letters to the wife upon her demanding them. In absence of instructions to the contrary, a postmaster should deliver letters addressed to the wife, to the husband, or place them in his box.

No. **20.** DIXON.—When a fourth-class postmaster has cancelled postage stamps upon mail matter, he has earned his commission upon such cancelled stamps, and it may be used out of the money received for stamps sold. He can not use such money to an amount in excess of the salary earned by him. He must be able and ready, at all times, to turn over to the Government all funds due the Government; but in calculating the amount due the Government, credit is always given for the salary that is earned up to the time such calculation is made.

Third and fourth-class matter may be returned to the mailing party upon their request, charged up with the amount of postage due for returning the same, which postage due must be collected by the delivering postmaster before delivering the same to the party who mailed it.

LULL IN OFFICE-SEEKING.

The Democrat who makes an unsuccessful application for an office can be found anywhere, but he who has made such unsuccessful quest and is satisfied with the treatment received is so rare as to make his existence, when found, worth chronicling. I met him yesterday. He said: "I came to Washington ten days ago well indorsed for the position of superintendent of one division of the railway mail service. I applied directly to the President; have not been appointed and yet I am satisfied."

"You astonish me. Please explain."

"Well, I called on the President twice. The first time simply to pay my respects. The second time I made my business known and called attention to my indorsements. I was surprised at the reception. The President did not give me any encouragement and he did not snub me. He said, 'Let's talk it over,' and we did. I sat with him more than half an hour. In that time he had learned all my qualifications and had a thorough knowledge of my abilities. In fact he was the lawyer and I the witness. He pumped me dry, and then told me that the office was under the jurisdiction of the postmaster general, and that he did not like to interfere in the conduct of the affairs of his various cabinet officers. He added that he considered the railway mail service one of the most important branches of the government service, and he dismissed me with the assurance that my claims should be considered. Since then I have learned that another man has a better prospect for the place than I have. He is, I am inclined to believe, better qualified for the place than I am."

"What do you propose to do?"

"Go home and resume my usual occupation. There are too many hanging about Washington for places, and I don't care to join their ranks."

Here is a good man when wanted.

USING THE MAILS FOR FRAUDULENT PURPOSES.

Some time ago, Thomas M. Hayes, of this city, according to testimony taken yesterday before U. S. Commissioner Probasco, ordered of J. L. Dillon, seedsman and florist, of Bloomsburg, Pa., two hundred bushels of the finest grade of seed wheat, at $1.40 per bushel. As soon as the wheat arrived, Hayes sold it to Foulds & Co.'s mill for 80 cents per bushel. Hayes never paid for it, and paid no attention to Mr. Dillon's demands, though he had promised to make payment for the wheat when received. On Saturday, Mr. Dillon had Hayes arrested by U. S. authorities, on the charge of using the mails for the purpose of defrauding. His preliminary hearing was had before Commissioner Probasco, the Government being represented by Robert Zahner, in the absence of the District Attorney. Hayes was bound over to the grand jury in the sum of $1,000. — *Cincinnati Commercial Gazette.*

RENT, LIGHT AND FUEL.

Coupled with this—for reform is paramount in the Post-office Department—is the proposition to permit allowances for rent for post-offices of the third class. In Ohio there are ninety-three postmasters of this grade, and it would take $22,500 to pay the rent of their offices. It is argued by the officials that justice requires that the Government assume this obligation. At present allowances are made for not only rent, but fuel, clerk hire, etc., to offices of the first and second classes, and it is contended that the Department should at least pay the rent of offices of the third or lower Presidential grade.—*Cincinnati Enquirer.*

POSTMASTER ARRESTED.

DENVER, Col., Oct. 21.—[Special.]—W. P. Duff, postmaster at Fort Lyon, Col., was arrested on Monday charged with being short in his accounts. He was taken to Pueblo, where he was brought before United States Commissioner Hart to-day. He was arrested on the complaint of a post-office inspector, who charges him with embezzling money-order funds. Duff waived an examination, and in default of $2,000 bail he will be placed in jail in this city to await the action of the United States Grand Jury, which meets November 5.

TRADE JOURNALS.

The history of trade journalism presents some singularly interesting and instructive features. What may be called trade and technical journalism essentially belongs to modern progress. Twenty-eight years ago there was not a single newspaper of this class in existence, with two exceptions, one in England and one in the United States. During the interval these journals have multiplied exceedingly. Within the past few years their number has become so great that they now represent almost every conceivable profession, trade and industry — from civil engineering down to chimney sweeping.

To those who have never bestowed any thought upon this matter the mere existence of these journals may seem paradoxical and precarious, yet a little reflection will serve to show that virtually they have the strongest possible claims to the support of the classes of the community to which they severally appeal. Originally many of them were simply circulars, or "prices current" of individuals and firms who found them useful in advertising their business. In other instances the journals were started and have been continued without reference to any particular firm or concern. The most successful paper of this class has gradually emerged from the chrysalis of a private circular into full-blown journalism. To-day the well conducted trade paper is a real necessity of that section of the public whose interests it exploits and protects. It is the medium for making announcements of new goods and novel processes, changes of partnerships, failures and the thousand and one business incidents in connection with every commercial calling.

The great merit of all trade journals is that there is (or, at all events, should be) nothing redundant in their contents. Every paragraph or article is expected to be strictly pertinent to the titles of the respective papers and the subject treated. "In the embodiment of this idea," says an enthusiastic correspondent, who favors us with some special notes upon the subject, "lies the (trade) superiority of the class journals over the general newspaper." This circumstance is really the ground of the stronghold such journals maintain upon their advertising connections. Every reader of a thorough-going and enterprising journal of this sort is a possible buyer of the articles advertised; hence a trade paper, with a regular circulation of say 4,000 to 6 000 copies, is worth more to the advertiser who only deals with the members of the trade represented than a general newspaper having a circulation of 75,000 or 100,000, because in the latter case not more than one reader in say fifty would be appealed to by the technical advertisement. This fact largely explains the almost marvelous success of the specialistic organs of the press.

A SPECIAL DELIVERY LITERARY GENIUS.

Colonel Richardson this morning handed to a *Post* reporter the following lyric flight, dashed off by an inglorious Milton, who serves his country in the capacity of a special delivery letter carrier. This literary gem was laid upon the General Superintendent's desk, without any signature or other means of identifying the modest author. It will be observed that the poet revels in a luxuriance of meter that would satisfy Walt Whitman:

THE SPECIAL DELIVERY.

The Postmaster General, Vilas,
Has got an idea that he'll kill us,
So out of his brain
This brilliant idea came
That started the special delivery.

He issued an order this way —
Some think it will not pay —
That all sub-carriers,
And old scrub-tarriers,
Should run dead for a dollar a day.

At night, when these specials go round,
One-half are sure to be bound
To wake folks in bed,
And out of a window pop their head
And then find they've got the wrong number.

Some people think they write fine,
And try in the books to sign,
And in nine out of ten,
When they've dropped the pen,
They've signed their name on the wrong line.

—*San Francisco Post.*

THE MAIL ROBBER.

It was a dismal stormy evening in the year 16—, that a rough-looking traveler passed over the bridge and through the gate of the old English city of Berwick. Approaching the sentinel, who was patiently walking his lonely beat, he sat down, took a crust of bread out of his pocket and commenced eating with an apparent relish. To the guard he seemed to be a young artisan, although he could not see the man's features, they being entirely overshadowed by the broad brim of his hat.

The rain commenced coming down in torrents and the wind to blow furiously, while the black clouds gathered as if prepared for a regular tempest ; it was just the kind of a night brigands would select for the execution of their dark deeds.

"Heaven guide you, if you are going to travel on such a night as this !" said the sentinel, as the man arose from the settee to continue his journey.

"Thank you !" was the stranger's only answer, and, taking his heavy cane, he was soon on the desolate heath which stretches out for miles along the Tweed. Having worked his way through the mud and mire for an hour or so, he stopped, and after looking around as if to select a place, he hid himself in the bushes along the road. After having spent an hour under his rather insufficient shelter, he heard the sound of a horse's hoofs approaching, at which sound he slightly raised himself, as if preparing for an attack. The horseman was bent over the steed's neck to break the force of the wind, and was speeding along as fast as the condition of the road would permit.

Suddenly, however, he felt some one seize the reins and stop his horse. Raising himself, his hands were held and a pistol pointed at his head, while a calm and rather mild voice told him to "Come down !" Although stiff with cold and frightened through surprise, he made at attempt to take out his weapons, but as soon as he did so he was unceremoniously thrown from his horse, and before he recovered himself from the shock, his horse and the mail bag had disappeared with his assailant.

The day following the robbing of the mail for the north of the British kingdom was the day set apart for the execution of one of King James' opponents, Sir John Cochrane, who was awaiting his death in a dark prison cell at Berwick.

Sir John had identified himself with the party which opposed James II., and, being one of the leaders, he had been taken by force and sentenced to death. He had taken leave of all his friends and relatives except his oldest daughter, who for some unknown reason had thus far refrained from making use of the privilege of visiting him.

As Sir John was speculating in his mind on the probable reason of his daughter's motives the door of his cell opened and the jailer, accompanied by a handsome young woman, entered.

"Sir John," said the jailer, "the mail-bag which contained the King's warrant was stolen from the postman last night, and in consequence your execution will be postponed."

"Thank you," said Sir John, hardly knowing what to say for joy of seeing his daughter, to whom he turned, saying :

"My dear Gertrude, my darling daughter !"

"My dear father," said Gertrude, when they were alone, "take courage ; you shall not die."

"We have no reason for expecting pardon, my daughter. My life may have been prolonged a few days, but the King will sign another warrant."

"A few days, father ? Why, there is hope as long as there is life. Is not grandfather a friend of Father Peters, the King's confessor and counsellor ?"

"Alas, yes ; but that will not save my life. Do not beguile your heart with a false hope. It is the Lord's will."

"Amen !" answered Gertrude. "Nevertheless, father, you shall not die."

The jailer opened the door, saying that the time allowed for her visit had expired, and Sir John was again alone.

Two weeks had passed since the robbing of the mail, and again it is night. It is a brilliant, night, however, and the moon is throwing fantastic shadows. The mail carrier is again crossing the heath of the Tweed, approaching Berwick with alert eyes, and his right hand on his pistol.

Just as he turned around a bush in a bend in the road a pistol shot breaks the silence of the night, and he feels the ball grazing his hair. He grasps his own weapon, but his trembling hold of it made it go off without aim.

The sudden noise of the shots in such rapid succession frightens the horse, who throws his rider off and starts to run ; but it is checked by the hand of the same mysterious stranger of a fortnight ago.

"Your weapons or your life !" says the same mild voice ; continuing, after having received the pistols : "Leave me your horse and bag, and do not stir until I am out of sight if you value your life."

The bandit jumped into the saddle and disappeared as if on wings.

For the second time were all the preparations necessary for Sir John Cochrane's execution made, and it only awaited the arrival of the mail, when again the robbery was announced, and consequently Sir John's life once more prolonged.

At the daily visit of his daughter that morning, Sir John said :

"Surely, God's hand is visible in this."

"Yes, father," answered Gertrude, weeping, "I told you that my father should not die."

As soon as the news of the second robbery of the mail reached London the father of Sir John, the Duke of Dundonald, again interposed for the life of his son, and with the help of Father Peters, who pointed out to the King the failure of the previously signed warrants to reach their destination, the King was prevailed upon to pardon Sir John Cochrane.

The Duke of Dundonald hastened to Berwick with the joyful tidings, and two weeks after the second mail robbery the prison door opened for Sir John, who, accompanied by his father, hastened to his home, where all his family was soon gathered around him. No ! not all. Gertrude was not there. Where could she be ? No one knew.

But there came a stranger at the door who desired an interview with Sir John. Being ordered in, the mysterious stranger, whom we saw four weeks ago on the heath of the Tweed, entered and approaching Sir John, hands him two documents, saying :

"After the perusal of these papers, commit them to the fire."

Sir John opened the papers, recognizing the two death warrants signed by the King. Turning pale, he says :

"You saved my life ; how shall I thank you ?" and turning to the astonished spectators he continued : "Father, children, here is the man who saved my life. Thank him !"

The old duke took the stranger by the hand, and the children drew nearer, but the stranger could not control himself, but throwing his broad-brimmed hat on the floor, disclosed the tear-stained but happy face of Gertrude Cochrane.

A SORRY JOKE,

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 17.—A young woman in Clarksburg, W. Va., who was admired by the Assistant Postmaster at that place, recently received a letter addressed to her in the handwriting of a telegraph-operator in Cincinnati. She was surprised, when she opened it, to find that the Cincinnati envelope contained a fictitious note from the Assistant Postmaster at Clarksburg, who had presumed on his acquaintance with her to take the liberty of playing what he regarded as a practical joke on his rival. The young lady was not able to appreciate the humor intended. She complained to the Post-Office Department that her letters had been tampered with, inclosing the envelopes and the substituted letter as evidence of the truth of her charge. An agent was sent to Clarksburg, who reported on the case, and to-day Inspector Henderson received information that the West Virginia lover, whose name is C. F. Ohley, had been indicted for opening letters. A bench warrant was issued for the arrest of the meddlesome assistant.

THE testimony is that THE UNITED STATES MAIL is invaluable to all new postmasters.

POST-OFFICE SALES.

Why the New Rules Limiting the Quantity Were Established.

The new rules restricting the sale of stamps, envelopes, etc., to individual customers has caused some inquiry at the Post-office on the part of purchasers, owing to the odd numbers chosen as the limit, such as 499 postal cards for instance. Superintendent Esher said the rules were issued for the convenience of the Department and the public. The new retail clerks have had verbal instructions time and again to sell a customer demanding a large quantity whatever they could conveniently spare from the stock in hand, but it was learned that no such indefinite instructions would suffice, for the reason that the clerks of the retail department were always in doubt as to how much they could spare. Now and then a customer who should have been waited on at the retailing windows had been sent to the wholesale department. The superintendent in several cases sent customers back to the retail department, and to his surprise they were returned to him by the clerks out there. The rule now is, that any quantity less than a whole box of envelopes, postal cards, or less than a whole sheet of stamps is to be furnished by the retail department. It is not likely, the superintendent says, that anybody will care to buy just 499 postal cards, but some limit had to be fixed, and as 500 was regarded as a wholesale lot, all under it were to be retailing numbers. The retail stamp department keeps open a little longer than the wholesale, and most of the questions have come up after the closing of the wholesale department. In Chicago there are many heavy buyers of stamps, some firms buying them at the rate of $1,000 worth at a time. The wholesale and large retail dry-goods houses are among the largest purchasers. For a while after the change in Postmasters no checks were taken in payment, because the signatures of the buyers were not known. This caused great inconvenience to the larger purchasers, because they were averse to sending out so much as $1,000 with their messengers, while a check would have been considered perfectly safe. The department has now adopted the rule of accepting certified checks, precautions having been taken to acquaint the cashier with the signatures of the certifying officers of all the city banks.—*Chicago Tribune.*

MALCOLM HAY'S FUNERAL.

Remains of the Late Ex-Assistant Postmaster General Buried at Pittsburgh.

PITTSBURGH, Oct. 22.—The funeral of Hon. Malcolm Hay took place this afternoon. Services were held at his late residence in Allegheny City at 2 o'clock, after which the remains were quietly deposited in Allegheny cemetery. In deference to the wishes of Mrs. Hay, there was no floral display or decorations. During the morning First Assistant Postmaster General Stevenson, Hon. James H. Hopkins, and many others called at the residence, and, after viewing the remains, paid their respects to the family. Mr. Stevenson said President Cleveland and Postmaster General Vilas desired him to express their high appreciation of the deceased.

IN the death of the Hon. Malcolm Hay this community loses a citizen who was universally esteemed for his many excellent qualities, social, professional and religious. The Bar is deprived of one of its most gifted and trusted members, and those organizations based on educational, philanthropic or benevolent schemes will lose an earnest supporter and advocate. His appointment as First Assistant Postmaster General seemed to open up to him a career of great usefulness, and to be the means of developing in a high degree those executive qualities for which he was so widely noted, but, alas ! the new duties upon which he entered with so much energy only served to exhibit his physical weakness, and he was forced to yield to the inevitable. His fellow-citizens of all parties will deeply regret his early demise.—*Pittsburgh Gazette.*

The President has shown no disposition to ignore the ladies in their claims for office, as he has appointed several to good paying positions in the postal service.

DEATH OF MALCOLM HAY.

A Cold Contracted at a Church Convention Ends in Consumption.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Oct. 20.—Hon. Malcolm Hay, after a lingering illness of several weeks, passed calmly away at 6:30 o'clock this morning. His last moments were so peaceful that the few friends who had been summoned to his bedside could scarcely realize that all was over. It has been nearly two years since, while in attendance at an Episcopalian Convention in Philadeipbia, he contracted a cold which terminated his life. In the early part of last spring, almost immediately after his appointment as First Assistant Postmaster General of the United States, he took an extended trip to the South in hope of improving his health, which had become precarious. He was apparently much benefitted by the change of climate, but the good results were but temporary, a relapse, after assuming his duties at Washington, compelled him to resign the high post of honor to which he had been called.

Leaving Washington, he located at Cresson Springs, with the idea the pure mountain air would build up his constitution. His stay at Cresson was short, however, it becoming evident that he was slowly sinking. He was brought, in an almost helpless condition, to his residence, in Allegheny City, about three weeks ago. The cold which had first located in his throat, had rapidly developed into pneumonia, and this, in turn, resulted in consumption, which in a very brief time terminated fatally. Early yesterday morning the change in his condition became marked, and the attending physician, Dr. Andrew Fleming, was hastily summoned. He remained with his patient until nearly midnight last night, leaving Mr. Hay slightly improved. The greater part of the day and night Mr. Hay was in a semi-conscious condition, and early this morning he fell into a deep sleep, his quiet respirations growing fainter and fainter, until thev ceased finally at 6:30 A. M.

COMPENSATION FOR SPECIAL DELIVERY MESSENGERS.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26 —Several Postmasters have written to the Department inquiring how the compensation of messenger boys who may be employed to carry the immediate delivery letters shall be determined. At the Department it is said that the question has not yet been settled, and in the absence of any further instructions from Postmster General Vilas on the subject the pay of messenger boys will be left to the discretion of the Postmaster employing them. Several plans for fixing these salaries have been suggested, but the Postmaster General failed to adopt any of them in his recent circulars of instruction on the subject of the special delivery. His instructions state that the compensation of messengers employed can be made only after the end of each calendar month. When the month has expired the Postmasters will compute the total amount of the special delivery stamps on all letters specially delivered from their offices as herein directed during each month, and eighty per cent. thereof may be applied, if necessary, to payment of the messengers who make such deliveries. This is the utmost limit of the appropriation for messengers' compensation in that total, as the act further provides that in no case shall the compensation so paid to any one person exceed $30 per month. The pooling proposition meets with considerable favor in various localities. The idea is to employ a certain number of boys at each office, and arrange to have a squad on day duty one week and night duty the following week. Then at the end of the month to pool all of the messengers' receipts and divide the amount equally among both squads. Such a plan, it is said, would encourage all concerned to work diligently.

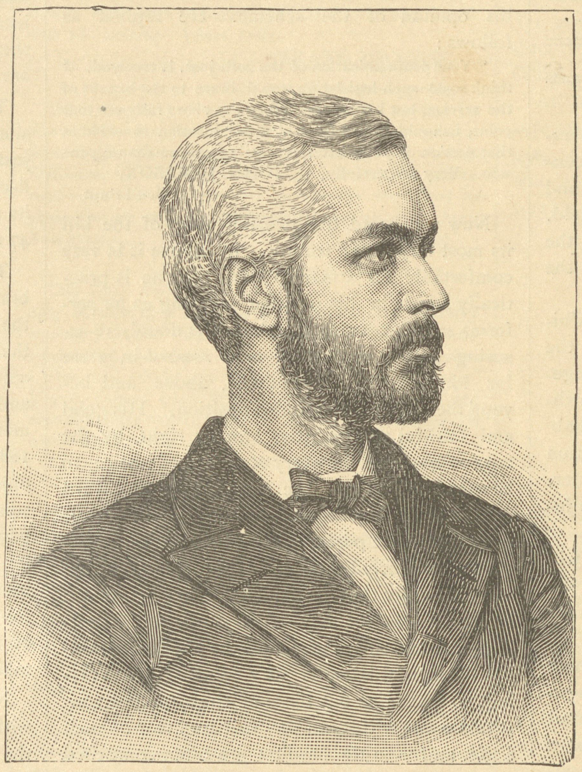
THE new postmaster at Baltimore is dead set against lady clerks, and he proposes to get rid of those he has at the earliest moment compatible with the interests of the service.

WORKS VERY NICELY.

The Special Post Delivery System a Decided Success.

"What do you think of the special delivery system by this time?" asked the *Times-Star* of Assistant Postmaster Muller to-day.

"It has turned out about as I expected it would," was the answer. "I thought that people would be a little slow in taking hold of it, and my predictions to that effect have been verified. However, I think it is a success now, and in time it will prove even more of a success than at present. Some changes should be made in the law, particularly as regards the compensation of the messengers. A boy gets the same money for going four miles to deliver a letter, as he does for going across the street. That is not fair, and some means should be devised for remedying the matter. Some have suggested the payment of a fixed salary, although in some cities that might result in the service being an expense to the department. As it is now it can not be, notwithstanding the statement in a morning paper to the contrary."



THE LATE HON. MALCOLM HAY.

LATE FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL.

"How much have the boys averaged per day since the commencement of the service."

"This is the 24th day of the month, and we began the special service on the 1st, so that there have been twenty-three actual days of service. Our books show that there have been delivered in this city 1,735 letters. We have thirteen boys employed, eight from 7 a. m. until 3 p. m., and five from 3 p. m. to midnight. That would be an average for each boy of six letters per day or forty-eight cents for his work. As a matter of fact, however, the service has steadily grown so that now the boys are getting nine or ten letters a day, making their compensation seventy-two or eighty cents. That is at the rate of $5.04 or $5.60 per week, which is good pay for small boys, and they have plenty of idle time to rest in the office, too. I am very well satisfied with the special service, and regard it as being as much of a success as is possible." —*Cincinnati Times-Star, Oct. 24.*

LETTERS are fully as dangerous, as they are agreeable. They cause shame as well as pleasure, and grief, as well as joy.

DR. MCDONALD, the father of the money order system, is still chief of that division. He drew the bill organizing that department.

NO POSTAL CARDS IN CONNECTICUT.

New Haven Borrows of Smaller Cities and the Manufacturers Still Behind.

NEW HAVEN, Oct 23.—Throughout a large portion of Connecticut and in several other sections of New England there exists a remarkable scarcity of postal cards. To-day not a single card could be purchased at the New Haven post-office after 9 o'clock. This office uses nearly 150,000 cards every month, and at the beginning of October an order for 100,000 was sent to the Department at Washington, but nothing was heard of them until Oct. 18, when the officials here telegraphed their urgent need and a reply was received that the manufacturers in Lakeville, N. Y., had been telegraphed to fill the order immediately. The office here was obliged to borrow from offices in all the cities of the State. The local office borrowed until it had about exhausted the surplus stock of the other offices, and now Bridgeport, Waterbury, Hartford and other places are said to be suffering from the scarcity. The officials here say that several Massachusetts cities are also suffering. When the new contract with the manufacturers went into effect in July, it is said, a month was spent in getting up new dies and machinery, and this is now given as the cause of the delay in supplying the demand.

A FLAW IN THE SPECIAL DELIVERY LAW.

It is the impression of some of the post-office officials that the clause in the law establishing the 10-cent stamp special delivery system which provides for its introduction into places having a population of not less than 4,000 inhabitants, according to the last census, will give rise to some complaint, for this reason: Since the last census a great many towns have increased in population at such a rate as to bring them within this limit, and, in some cases, beyond. It is quite probable that there are over fifty towns throughout the country where the population during the last five years has increased, so that the total is above the limit provided in the law. There are, of course, a great many in the West, where the growth is naturally more rapid than in the more settled portions of the country, but still there are numerous instances of the same thing in the New England States. If the law had left it discretionary with the Postmaster General to extend the system to such places where, to his best information, the population had increased, there would not have been the cause for complaint that is now likely to occur.

POSTMASTER GENERAL VILAS.

A Very Busy Man.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12.—The Postmaster General has got so much to do in changing Republican postmasters that the room he has occupied has become filled with applications and recommendations for office, and he has moved into the adjoining one. which he will keep for a private sanctum, and has arranged for a double system of guards to protect him from the public. The office of the Postmaster General is a great curiosity nowadays, there being 400,000 applications for office lying around on the floor, the pigeon-holes not being sufficient to contain one per cent. of them. Every mail brings seven or eight bags full of similar documents to add to the collection, and from this pile of testimony the Postmaster General is expected to discover whether the men are fitted for the office or not, but the good old practice of accepting the Congressman's word for it is still adhered to. The bundles of recommendations when they come are turned over to the clerk in charge of the district in which the office is located, and he classifies them, ties them up with strings, and piles them like cordwood on the floor, each pile representing a State. In some cases, as New York, Indiana, Ohio, and other of the largest States, they are classified by Congressional Districts, so when the Postmaster General has a case under consideration the papers can be found for him more easily than if they were chucked away in pigeon-holes.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean.*

The United States Mail.

MONTHLY.

ONE YEAR, - - - - -	$2 00
SIX MONTHS, - - - - -	1 00
SINGLE COPIES, - - -	20 CENTS.
TEN COPIES, - -	ONE DOLLAR.

PUBLISHED BY THE LAKESIDE PRESS.
JOHN H. PATTERSON, EDITOR.

Remittances should be made to the order of THE UNITED STATES MAIL, *and should be by money order, postal note, or registered letter.*

THE UNITED STATES MAIL *is the only journal in this country, of legitimate circulation, depending entirely upon its merits for public patronage, devoted to the interests of the postal service.*

Entered at the Post-office at Chicago for transmission through the mails at second-class postal rates.

CHICAGO, NOVEMBER, 1885.

THE CONVENTION.

It will be observed that we devote considerable space in this issue to the question of a convention of third and fourth class postmasters and the *reasons* why such convention should be held. We have now done all we can do without the aid and co-operation of those for whom the movement is intended to benefit.

A preliminary meeting should be held in Chicago at an early day, to fix upon plans for the holding of the convention and to make arrangements therefor. An address to third and fourth-class postmasters should be prepared and submitted to the preliminary meeting for its adoption and by that means in an authoritative manner, invite the co-operation of all who should be interested in the success of such a movement.

We would like to have every person who will attend the preliminary meeting to so inform us, and we will then fix upon a day and arrange for a place for the meeting to be held.

It is not advisable or necessary that there should be an attendance of postmasters living a great distance away from here, as it would entail too great an expense upon them; but there should be no hesitation with those whose residence is fifty miles or less from Chicago.

DECREASE IN POSTAL REVENUES.

The decrease in postal revenues for the past fiscal year is larger than was expected. The law to reduce the letter postage from three to two cents was enacted about two years ago. For the last three quarters of the first fiscal year the effect upon the revenue was inconsiderable. This was attributed in large measure to the great increase in the number of two-cent stamps that were used to inclose business circulars It had been expected that this increase would continue, so that there would not be a large reduction in the present revenues. But this expectation has not been realized. The first complete fiscal year under the operation of the reduced postal law closed on the 30th of last June. It was not a good business year. It had been supposed that the deficiency wonld not be more than $4,000,000. On the contrary, it will be about $6,000,000. These figures are not to be taken as accurate, as the President's wish that the Bureau report shall not be given to the public in advance of his message makes it impossible to obtain the exact figures.

Snbscriptions are always welcome—$2 per year.

THE POSTAL CLERKS.

We print on another page an exceedingly interesting sketch of the general work of railway postal clerks, in which there is information imparted of a very valuable character.

We have taken occasion before to speak in favorable terms of the excellent work performed by postal clerks, and we give place to the article referred to with very great pleasure.

We intimated last month that a bill had been prepared and would be submitted to Congress this winter, removing postal clerks from all political influence, making their positions depend altogether upon their honesty, fidelity and general capacity, and to retire them after a service of fifteen years upon $40.00 per month for life We wrote MR. JOHN JAMESON, the General Superintendent of the Railway Mail Service, and told him what we had heard, and asked him for his opinion of the scheme. He replied as follows:

> "Your communication of the 20th inst. is received. I think some such legislation would inure to the benefit of the service, but before expressing my views fully on that point, I should have to consider the question involved in that portion of your letter respecting retirement on pension. Very respectfully, JOHN JAMESON,
> Gen'l Supt.

Now we regard the pension part of the bill its most important feature. Of course it is very comfortable for a man to know that he is practically secure in his position so long as he performs satisfactory service, but it is doubly re-assuring to feel that there is a *reward* in store for him for his faithfulness, above and beyond the mere holding of his position. His good and faithful work entitles him by right, by the laws of business, by every standard of justice, to have and to hold his place, but that far-off reward is his star of hope to induce him to still greater exertions in the performance of his duties.

It is no discredit to any other branch of the service to say that postal clerks are by far the hardest worked of any others connected with it. They are not only under constant physical strain, but the mental labor is very exacting and wearing, so that none but those of the strongest constitution can withstand the wear and tear of such a life, and even the hardiest are often compelled to give it up after a struggle of a few years. Their lives are constantly in danger, and they never know when they leave their homes whether they will ever return to them.

Such brave, hard-worked men need encouragement of a substantial character, and Congress should not be slow to afford them the relief the necessities of their position entitles them to.

CONGRESS will soon convene, and a new Post-office Committee will be appointed. The changes from last session will be many, as several of its members have retired. The old chairman, MR. H. D. MONEY, is out, and so also is DAVE PAIGE, of Ohio, and CHAS. R. SKINNER, of New York. MR. H. H. BINGHAM, of Philadelphia, will be there, however. Senator CONGER, of Michigan, is chairman of the Senate Committee.

JOHN O. MACREADY, a letter carrier at the Lowell, Mass., office, has been caught stealing letters, and is held in $2,000 bail. In his house were found 322 letters and seventy-five postal cards. Some of the letters contained jewelry and checks. We can not imagine, however, what the fellow intended to do with the postal cards, unless it was to have his wife boil them up and make postal soup out of them.

THE LOUISVILLE POST-OFFICE.

We present on our first page a beautiful illustration of the new post-office building now in process of erection at Louisville, Ky., and it is not too much to say that when completed, it will be the handsomest structure of the kind in the United States outside of Washington. Its cost will not be far from three millions of dollars, and, though heavy, yet it is not too much for Uncle Sam to invest in one of the most prosperous cities in the Union. It is not so large as the post-office at Boston, Philadelphia, St. Louis or Cincinnati, but we regard its architectural appearance as superior to any of the others. We do not think the *site* selected for this great building well adapted to the purpose designed, as it is altogether too far away from the business portion of the city. In fact, we consider it as exceedingly unfortunate that such a far-away location should be decided upon. We have been there and seen for ourselves and know what we are writing about.

The business of the Louisville office has long since outgrown its present quarters, and it was a just compliment to a great city when Congress decided to give it a building commensurate with its needs. The office has 117 employés of whom 47 are clerks and 43 are letter-carriers.

There has been a constant increase in all branches of the business of the office, not only in the number of pieces of mail matter handled by the letter-carriers, but also in the number and amount of money-orders and postal-notes issued and paid; and when we state that the number of money-orders issued up to this time, during 1885, amount to almost 20,000, the force of our objection to the location of the new building two squares beyond the business centre, will be apparent. It is not unlikely that by the time it shall have been completed, the annual issue of money-orders will have run up to forty thousand, and to compel people to go blocks out of their way to get them, is an unseemly undertaking.

Nor can we permit this opportunity to pass without saying a word as to the management of the Louisville office which in every way has been not only vigorous but admirable. For eight years it has been under the charge of MRS. VIRGINIA C. THOMPSON, a daughter of the late REV. ALEX. CAMPBELL, who was the founder of what is known as the Campbellite Church. She was appointed July 1, 1877, and re-appointed March 31, 1882. She has made a most excellent postmaster, and her office stands very high in the estimation of the Department at Washington. She gives the duties of her position her personal attention, and has made herself perfectly familiar with our postal system. She has instituted numerous reforms in the administration of the business of the office and has done her utmost to accommodate the public. She has been greatly assisted by MR. E. S. TULEY, who is an able and accomplished gentleman, of great sagacity in the transaction of the postal business, having been twenty-one years Assistant Postmaster and over thirty-one years in the office. MR. TULEY is regarded in postal circles as an *expert*, and it would be difficult, indeed, to find his superior.

We are inclined to believe that much of the success of the office is due to the careful manner in which the clerical changes are made. They are few in number but they always evince care and discrimination.

KISSES BY MAIL.

A young postmaster of a village post-office was hard at work when a gentle tap was heard upon the door, and in stepped a bashful maiden of sixteen, with a money order, which she desired cashed. She handed it to the official with a bashful smile, who after closely examining it, handed her the money it called for. At the same time he asked her if she had read what was written on the margin of the order.

"No, I have not," she replied, "for I can not make it out. Will you please read it for me?"

The young postmaster read as follows: "I send you three dollars and a dozen kisses."

Glancing at the bashful girl, he said: "Now, I have paid you the money and I suppose you want the kisses."

"Yes," she said, "if he has sent me any kisses I want them, too."

It is hardly necessary to say that the balance of the order was promptly paid, and in a scientific manner at that and eminently satisfactory to the country maiden, for she went out of the office smacking her lips as if there was a taste upon them she never encountered before.

After she arrived home she remarked to her mother: "Eh, mother, but this post-office system of ours is a great thing, developing more and more every year, and each new feature added seems to be the best. Jimmy sent me a dozen kisses along with the money order and the postmaster gave me twenty. It beats the special delivery system all hollow."

"The Peer of Black Bart" has been caught in California, and is awaiting trial for mail robbery.

Edwin Eichman, of Lancaster, Pa., has been arrested for stealing letters from the post-office in that city. A large number were found upon his person.

Thomas Gilfry, a brakeman on the Lake Shore road between Toledo and Chicago, was caught stealing letters from the fast mail car on Saturday, August 22d.

C. E. Wilkinson, of Auburn, Ind., has been arrested for working swindling devices through the mails. Also Thomas M. Hayes, of Cincinnati, for a similar offense.

The Plant Improvement Company have completed the railroad from Pemberton's Ferry to Lakeland. Fla. This completed the all-rail route to Tampa, and extends the fast mail system to Havana by steamer.

"WHY SHOULD THE SPIRIT OF MORTAL BE PROUD."

Why should the spirit of mortal be proud,
When a two-dollar coffin and a four-bit shroud may gather him in?
A pretty tough question, indeed!

When he owes for his clothes and his board bill's unpaid,
And prospects are as black as the old ace of spades?
We give it up entirely!

Why should he think he is really too sweet,
When his note is no good and he's corns on his feet?
It's darned hard to tell!

When his post-office has gone from his gaze,
And he is compelled to travel new ways?
That is worse and more of it!

Should he strut through the world and be mashed on his shape,
When he acts like a clown and looks like an ape?
We rather think not!

Why should he be as mean as a Government mule,
Live a long lie and die like a fool?
Please don't ask us any more questions of this character!
They are too painful.

WHAT THE POSTMASTER GENERALS SAY!

No journal ever printed has had more kind things said of it than The United States Mail. They come from postmasters of every grade, as well as from those high in authority. Attention is invited to the following:

Washington, April 13, 1885.

My Dear Sir: I cheerfully comply with your request and join my voice with the commendations of my predecessors in this office, upon your bright-faced and cheery magazine, The United States Mail. It is so full of interest and valuable information to persons interested in the service, that *it must, by its merits, command a general patronage.* Very truly yours,

WM. F. VILAS.

Washington, D. C., December 29, 1884.

My Dear Sir: Please accept my thanks for recent copies of The United States Mail. A paper like yours, which brings the workings of the postal system of the country before the people, can not be otherwise than beneficial. Your paper is bright and interesting, and I wish you all success. Yours truly,

FRANK HATTON.

Chicago, November 25, 1884.

My Dear Sir: I am just in receipt of The United States Mail for October and November. I am greatly pleased with the contents, and the mechanical work is first-class. I sincerely hope your undertaking will be successful, and that you will be liberally patronized by those who are employed in the postal service, and others. Yours truly, W. Q. GRESHAM.

New York, February 14.

My Dear Sir: I am greatly indebted to you for a copy of your very handsomely illustrated and superbly printed journal. Filled to the brim with valuable postal information, and edited with ability and care, it supplies a want long felt by postmasters throughout the country. If your journal could be read by every official connected with the Department, *there would be fewer complaints and a more perfect service.* Very truly yours,

THOS. L. JAMES.

Peru, Indiana, May 21, 1885.

My Dear Sir: The inclination to compliment The United States Mail, upon its neat appearance, and its interesting contents, would have been sooner indulged, but for my continued absence from home during the last ninety days. The compliment, however, can now be the more generous, for the increased influence of the paper will justify it.

Whoever familiarizes himself with the history and details of the postal service in this country, must become a student. Its growth within the last twenty years has been marvelous and unprecedented, fully up to and a little ahead of the general progress of the country. It is now the equal of any in the world—yea, considering the vast territory to be served, and its amazing increase in population, it is the *best* service in the world. The enterprise that brought it to its present perfection was unaided, most of the time, by a proper medium for the spread of information, and was never advanced by an "organ," in the full sense of the term. *The officials and employés of the Post-office Department should encourage a publication that so nearly approaches this character as does the* Mail. Very truly yours,

JAS. N. TYNER.

Chattanooga, Tenn., June 18, 1885.

My Dear Sir: I have just given the June number of The United States Mail a cursory examination. The make up of the paper is excellent. It possesses great value for officials connected with the postal system of the country, and equally as great, if not greater, for all persons engaged in business, professions or pursuits requiring considerable correspondence through the mails, by preventing mistakes which occur necessarily from a want of knowledge of the laws, regulations and methods of postal administrations. In my opinion, the business men of the country stand in greater need of your paper than persons connected with the postal service, *though it must prove invaluable to them, and certainly no live wide-awake postmaster will fail to avail himself of the benefits to be derived from a careful study of its columns.*

Most respectfully, D. M. KEY.

Paris, Va., July 1, 1885.

My Dear Sir: Thanks for the copy, No. 9, of The United States Mail recently sent me. It is gotten up in excellent style. The matter is varied, interesting and pertinent to the general aims of the publication. This meets a want long felt by postal officials and business men, especially in a country so progressive as ours, and must, I think, commend itself *as indispensable to all persons connected with the postal system of the country.*

Very respectfully, JAS. W. MARSHALL.

Washington, D. C., April 10th.

My Dear Sir: Please accept my thanks for the March and April numbers of your very interesting paper, which I should think every postmaster would do well to take, as it contains information of value to all who have anything to do with the mails. I wish you very great success in your enterprise. Yours truly, HORATIO KING.

All the above gentlemen have filled the high and honorable position of Postmaster General of the United States, and it is not too much to say that they are competent judges as to what a postal journal should be. We feel grateful to them for their approval and warm words of praise, and hope we merit all they have said of us.

There is no sort of doubt but that we occupy a grand field, and there is no journal in the United States with prospects as bright as ours. We are in the field alone. We have no opposition. Some has been attempted but it has failed.

All we ask of the postal fraternity is for its support, and if we can get it liberally, we propose to become more and more necessary to all who are in any manner interested in the mail service of these United States.

LETTER ADDRESSES.

Postal Machine Poetry.

"Please send me right along;
Don't keep me in the box.
So listen to my song:
I'm for Mrs. Annie Cox,
Away down South,
In the State of Mississippi,
To the County of Jackson,
And to Scranton City,
Is where I want to go,
The doctor's wife, you know."

"To Harry L. Wilson, a brave soldier boy,
This letter must go, and I now employ
The fast white mail train to convey it to him
At Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
He is short and he's slim,
But he fights like sin
In Company F, 18th Infantry.
He punishes whiskey and redskins alike,
And on pretzels and beer he has not made a strike.
Now, hasten, good mail train, and take this to him,
Is my prayer and petition as I lay down my pen."

The above was the superscription on a letter mailed at Richmond, Ind., and is about as tough an attempt at machine poetry as we ever came across. It makes us weary.

But here is another from Richmond, a great improvement upon the above, and Mr. O. E. Mitchell, a letter carrier, will please accept our thanks for it.

"If the mail on the Economy Hack Line
Would get to Washington on time,
He will please put this letter on the east-bound train,
So it will reach Abington, fair weather or rain.
It is intended for Miss Louie Hunt, a lady both pretty and fair,
With large, expressive eyes and loveliest of hair.
Oh, hackman and mail clerk, please don't delay
For I want this letter to reach Louie to-day."

The following comes from Asbury Park, N.J.:

"In Philadelphia City and on C—— Street
Mr. ——'s store you'll surely meet;
At 512 will you please drop in
And hand this letter to my Uncle Jim."

The answer was as follows:

"For Mrs. —— at Asbury Park,
This letter is sent as she is fond of a 'lark,'
It's from an 'Uncle' who is not blood kin,
But still she is pleased to call him 'Uncle Jim.'
In the State of New Jersey, a Spanish domain,
Put this in Box No. — and relieve her of pain."

Mr. Harry Ruffner, Ass't P. M. at Gunnison, Col., sends the following:

"Now I am ready, please start me just right,
And I'll travel along by day and by night,
Till I reach the town of Lincoln, Nebraska State,
Miss Queen Ballard will find my message relate."

The following was on a letter recently mailed at Rochelle, Ill.:

"Oh, carry me at a rattling rate
To King Station P. O., Illinois State,
There in a post-office let me lay
Till dear Flora King takes me away."

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS,

The following have been appointed postmasters at Presidential offices since our last report:

Commissioned August 19, 1885.

Albert O. Bristol	Pasadena, Cal.
John W. Marshall	McLeansborough, Ill.
Charles T. Marsh	Oregon, Ill.
John M. Gilliland	Nashua, Iowa
Elbridge D. Fenn	Nevada, Iowa
Max J. Alwens	Belleville, Kans.
Samuel J. Hess	Fredonia, Kans.
Chauncey W. Freeman	Brookfield, Mo.
Wm. A. Walker	Albuquerque, New Mexico
Docteur L. LaGrange	Port Richmond, N. Y.
Wm. M. Gay	Wilson, N. C.
Frederick A. Schiffley	Orangeburgh C. H., S. C.
Charles H. Burroughs	LaCrosse, Wis.
Henry C. Hunt	Reedsburgh, Wis.

August 21, 1885.

Francis G. Horton	Ellendale, Dak.
Edward B. Miller	Pierre, Dak.
John B. Mitchell	New Albany, Ind.
Richard Holmes	Natchez, Miss.
Clark Holden	Barre, Vt.

August 28, 1885.

Julius A. Mantey	Mound City, Kans.
Frank W. Frye	Parsons, Kans.
Samuel H. Buck	New Orleans, La.
George A. Paxton	Valentine, Neb.
Joseph H. Allen	Durham, N. C
George W. Morse	Waterbury, Vt.
Walter H. Dawley	Antigo, Wis.
Reuben P. Hitchcock	Tomah, Wis.

September 4, 1885.

Cornelius Carr	Woonsocket, Dak.
Juliette M. Jones	Cambridge City, Ind.
Jerome W. Pierce	Springfield, Vt.

September 9, 1885.

George Wise	Hamburgh, Iowa
Robert R. McBride	Thibodeaux, La.

September 10, 1885.

Samuel S. Lacey	Marshall, Ala.

September 15, 1885.

James C. Reed	Corinth, Miss.

September 24, 1885.

Lemuel B. Fowler	Augusta, Me.
James B. Smith	Fayetteville, N. C.

September 29, 1885.

Bazel D. Meek	Eureka, Ill.
Wm. H. Evans	Princeton, Ind.
John F. Cottrell	Fort Scott, Kans.
Henry Williams	Frederick, Md.
Timothy Killian	Escanaba, Mich.
Warren J. Barrett	Kinston, N. C.
Russell T. Dobson	Bowling Green, Ohio
Frederick S. Reefy	Elyria, Ohio
John W. Morris	Troy, Ohio
John Crull	Marietta, Pa.
Charles B Draper	Oconomowoc, Wis.

October 2, 1885.

Lewin S Fowler	Chestertown, Md.
Wm. L. Williams	Melrose, Mass.
Wm. T. Weaver	Asheville, N. C.

October 6, 1885.

Franklin D. Denton	Batesville, Ark.
Thomas Hardeman	Macon, Ga.
Jas. B. Blackwell	Marietta, Ga.
Oliver S. Dale	Monticello, Ind.
Edmund P. Mathews	Bowling Grove, Mo.
John A. Collins	Washington, Mo.
Jas. Murray	Fremont, Neb.
Richard J. Ashby	Charlestown, W. Va.

October 8, 1885.

Edward A. Pueschel	Bakersfield, Cal.
Elisha E. Waggoner	Shelbyville, Ill.
Edward H. Thayer	Clinton, Iowa
Bernard J. Sheridan	Paola, Kans.
Adrian Foote	Ashland, Mass.
Edward Van De Casteele	De Pere, Wis.

October 13, 1885.

Lawrence R. Davis	Athens, Ala.
Russell D. Stephens	Sacramento, Cal.
Burritt D. Breed	Lisbon, Dak.
Wm. D. Swail	Belvidere, Ill.
Milton H. Westbrook	Lyons, Iowa.
Walter W. McGrew	Eureka, Kans.
Frank T. Spinney	Medford, Mass.
James Blair	Grand Rapids, Mich.
Andrew Shakespeare	Kalamazoo, Mich.
John Flynn	Duluth, Minn.
James Delaney	Saint Peter, Minn.
Harry S. Parker	Farmington, N. H.
Benj. F. Ellsberry	Ironton, Ohio
Thomas J. Lane	Greeneville, Tenn.

October 16, 1885.

J. Henry Bowers	Chico, Cal.
Wm. Miliner	Cartersville, Ga.
Thomas Bowman	Council Bluffs, Iowa
Benj. F. Devore	Independence, Kans
Alexander H. Dudley	Princeton, Kans
Isaiah Garrett	Monroe, La.
Simeon A. Jacobs	Chicopee, Mass.
Josiah H. Brinker	West Point, Miss
John H. Hill	Goldsborough, N. C.
Patrick J. Rogers	Piedmont, W. Va.
Robert Simpson	Wheeling, W. Va.

October 20, 1885.

Robert F. Chilton	Santa Ana, Cal.
Chas. C. Hathaway	Del Norte, Colo.
Lyman Thompson	South Pueblo, Colo.
Chas. G, Hagnauer	Highland, Ill.
John D. Waterman	Rockford, Ill.
Charles Doerr	Fort Madison, Iowa
Martin N. Sinnott	Arkansas City, Kans.
Samuel T. Carrico	Harper, Kans.
Thos. A. McCleary	Medicine Lodge, Kans.
Thos. R. Love	Wellington, Kans.
Henry F. Taylor	Fulton, Ky.
Wm. W. Wathen	Lebanon, Ky.
Albert A. Haggett	Lowell, Mass.
Lewis Lowry	Cameron, Mo.
Wm. H. Tatum	Glasgow, Mo,
Chas. W. Huggins	Lamar, Mo.
Caradora Clark	Blair, Neb.
Wm. N. Hensley	Columbus, Neb.
Edward T. Best	Neligh, Neb.
Forrest L. Whedon	York, Neb.
Fred B. Bardon	Madison, N. J.
James G. Hasson	Ebensburgh, Pa.
Michael D. Baker	Uniontown, Pa.
Arthur D. Glover	Olympia, Washington Ter.
Peter McCamley	Grand Rapids, Wis,
James W. Beattie	Marshfield, Wis.

October 22, 1885.

Christian Blievernicht	Elmhurst, Ill.
Henry F. Tallman	Lanark, Ill.
Wm. H. Newcomb	Pana, Ill.
David M. Bossert	Jefferson, Iowa
Chas. Hardcastle	Marion, Kans.
Joseph B. Fugate	Newton, Kans.
George W. Sain	Nickerson, Kans.
Robert S. Wagner	Bangor, Pa.
Wm. McFarlan	Downingtown, Pa.
John F. Rayen	Sandy Lake, Pa.
John O. Johnson	Austin, Tex.
Robert Burns	Houston, Tex.

EIGHTEEN LETTERS IN HIS VALISE.

A Postal Clerk Caught In a Trap and Arrested—What He Says.

Edward E. Cooper, a postal clerk, running on the J., M. & I. Ry. between Louisville and Indianapolis, was arrested yesterday morning while he was making out his report at the post-office by G. C. Maynard, inspector of the Postal Department. Cooper's hand-satchel, which he had with him, was seized, and an invoice of it found eighteen letters addressed to points in Southern Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana and places throughout the South. He was at once taken before United States Commissioner Crail, waived examination, and was held over in $2,000 bond, failing to give which he went to jail.

Cooper is a very light mulatto who has been in the postal service for three years, his appointment having been recommended by the Hon. Stanton J. Peelle, Congressman from the Seventh Indiana (Indianapolis) District. He lives at Indianapolis, and has by good work made rapid advancement in the service.

The postal officials say that for some time letters have been lost on the J., M. & I. run, and Mr. Maynard was detailed to look up the matter. He arranged, he says, four decoy letters, and claims that these were found in Cooper's satchel at the time of the arrest. These letters were addressed to M. A. Dauphin, of the Louisiana State Lottery, at New Orleans. These were put in the car at Columbus, Ind., by Mr. Maynard, and he boarded the same train for this city. The arrest brought to light these four letters in Cooper's possession.

A reporter for the *Commercial* saw Cooper at the United States Court-room yesterday afternoon. He was nervous over his arrest and talked manfully in his own behalf. "This is a put-up job on me," he said. "It has been instigated to oust me from the service, and it now looks much like the plan had succeeded. In putting those letters in my grip I followed a general custom of all the boys on the road. In case we get letters too late to be tied out in the regular packages, we take them with us and hand them to the men to whom we transfer the matter. The rule is to carry them in our hands, but none of us ever do that. Not one of the letters was harmed, as the men who arrested me must acknowledge. I had not yet finished my trip report at the post-office before I was called away by Capt. Jenks, of Louisville. He asked me to go up stairs with him as he had something to say, and I did it. Then came my arrest. I am ready and anxious for a trial at once, if they will give it to me. You will then see that I will show my innocence. I am a stranger in Louisville, and can not get bail here. If I were in Indianapolis I would not stay in jail an hour."

Cooper went from Florida six years ago to Bloomington, Ind., and entered the State University there, where he remained until the junior year. Then he went to Indianapolis, and graduated at the high school. He has always had an unblemished character until his arrest. He has never been known to drink or gamble, and if he is guilty, his acquaintances can only wonder what has led him to do it.

JUSTICE TO MINOR OFFICIALS.

Mr. John H. Patterson, editor of THE UNITED STATES MAIL, is trying to arrange a convention for third and fourth-class postmasters, to be held in this city the latter part of next month. The object of the convention is to enable the delegates to take united action in urging upon Congress some action that will relieve the classes of postmasters referred to from the injustice which they claim is done them under present laws, in the matter of allowances for rent, light, fuel, and clerk-hire. Without discussing the propriety of such a gathering, or the influence it would be likely to have in obtaining the desired action by Congress, there can be no doubt of the justice of the claim made, especially by postmasters of the third-class. Under existing laws the department is authorized to make allowances for rent, light, fuel, and clerk-hire at offices of the first and second classes. An office of the second-class is one where the postmaster's salary is over $2 000. A third-class postmaster is one whose salary is over $1,000 and not exceeding $2 000. Under existing laws the postmaster is required to pay his own rent and for light and fuel and help necessary until his salary reaches $2,000, and then the department is authorized by law to make allowances for all these items. There can be no reason given why rent, light, fuel, and clerk-hire should be furnished second-class offices that does not apply with equal force to offices of the third-class.

Postmasters are hard-working officials. Their places are not sinecures. The records show that the public has no more honest or faithful servants. The public records show that in seven years over two hundred and sixty millions of dollars have been collected by the postmasters throughout the country, with a loss to the Government of less than twenty-eight thousand dollars. What private business firm or corporation can make a better showing?

The Government can afford to do justice to the third and fourth-class postmasters, and it may be that a united effort will secure such legislation as they desire.—*The Chicago Mail.*

WORKING THE MAILS.

A Young Scamp's Scheme to Accumulate Wealth.

CHICAGO, Ill., Oct. 19.—William C. Glenn, a a youth of twenty, was lodged in the county jail yesterday, to await a hearing before the United States commissioner on the charge of conducting swindling operations through the mails. Glenn lives at Rochelle, Ill., where he has been engaged in the office with his brother, who is the postmaster at that place. Some time since young Glenn is said to have begun negotiations with Eastern dealers in foreign postage stamps and curios of that description, under a half dozen fictitious names. The Second National Bank of Rochelle was given for reference as to the solvency of each of these mythical persons. This bank exists only in Glenn's fancy letter-heads, which also gave the names of its imaginary officers and the amount of its supposed capital. Glenn received all the letters addressed to the bank, and gave the fictitious persons excellent financial ratings. These several imaginary persons then ordered large quantities of merchandise on time. Glenn is said to have received from $100 to $500 worth of goods from A. F. Simms & Co., of Alexandria, Va.; E. B. Sterling & Co., of Trenton, N. J., and William Wetterer, of Baltimore. Complaints were made at the Post-office Department by A. F. Simms & Co., and an inspector was put on the case. After weeks of watching and investigation young Glenn was arrested Saturday. A search of his room at his father's house revealed about $1.200 of the stamps and other articles shipped by the Eastern firms.

FIRST STAGE ROBBERY THIS WEEK.

GALVESTON, Oct. 27.—A special from San Angela, Texas, says: The stage from Abilene was robbed by masked highwaymen last night and the mails carried away. The driver was made to hand over his express packages at the point of a rifle. Two passengers were in the stage, but were unmolested.

A GOOD attendance at the preliminary meeting to arrange for the Convention is important.

IS IT TRUE?

Serious Charges Against a Post-office Inspector.

At a mass meeting of the citizens of Wichita Falls, Tex., called to take action on the post-office troubles of that town, held on the evening of the 13th of August, 1885, the meeting was organized by electing Maj. Robt. Cobb president and J. P. Boyd secretary, whereupon Col. L. L. Wittich, in behalf of the citizens, presented the resolutions hereto attached, which, after a full discussion, were adopted by a very large majority, and thereupon an election by ballot was had to fill the blank left in the resolutions for a man to represent, and Messrs. John Dunnington, John W. McCanley, A. D. Acres, J. H. Estes and C. E. Reid were nominated, and upon the third ballot Reid, having received a majority of the votes cast, was declared elected, and upon motion his election was made unanimous.

Upon motion Messrs. W. W. Flood, L. L. Wittich and G. W. Caldwell were appointed a committee to forward the proceedings of this meeting to the president and to Hon. J. W. Throckmorton.

No further business appearing, the meeting adjourned. ROBT. COBB, Prest.

J. P. BOYD, Sec.

RESOLUTIONS.

To the President of the United States, Washington, D. C.:

Whereas, at an examining trial of A. D. Acres, postmaster at Wichita Falls, Tex., before the United States Commissioner, charged with unlawfully detaining and breaking open certain letters directed to one Mrs. Helen H. Woodward, it was developed, in our opinion, that said Mrs. Woodward was an adventuress, and that she came to this place for the purpose of securing the office of postmistress and to accomplish which, she, in our opinion, entered into a conspiracy with W. E. Smith, postal inspector, by which said Smith concocted a scheme of sending certain letters through this office directed to said Woodward, and which letters were taken from the office by her and without the inspection of any person save Smith; they, to-wit, Smith and Woodward, did (in our opinion) falsely and wickedly swear that said Acres broke open said letters, and by which perjured testimony the said Acres was convicted and bound over to answer at the United States Circuit Court; and,

Whereas, in our opinion, the adoption of sueh means to accomplish the end sought is base, wicked and unlawful, and,

Whereas, we do, without hesitation, denounce the action of said Smith and Woodward as shameful, outrageous and dangerous, and,

Whereas, in our opinion, it was demonstrated at said trial that said Woodward was an applicant for the office of postmistress at this place, and that said Smith was aiding and abetting her in procuring same, and,

Whereas, we believe said Woodward is a mere adventuress, a stranger to us, and in no wise acceptable to us as a postmistress.

Therefore, we most earnestly protest and remonstrate against her appointment, and,

Whereas, there has been mueh discontent and dissatisfaction among the people since said Acres has been postmaster.

Therefore, we most earnestly protest and remonstrate against the appointment of the said Woodward to said office, but do cheerfully recommend Mr. C. E. Reid as a suitable man for the office, and whose appointment will give general satisfaction.

After the meeting had unanimously adopted the foregoing and signed it, it was then placed in charge of a committee composed of Maj. W. W. Flood, Col. L. L. Wittich and Mr. Geo. W. Caldwell to procure signatures of all who were not present at the meeting, and the committee was also instructed to prepare a separate petition for the removal of Smith, the post-office inspector, which is now being circulated.

CARRIER CLARK REMOVED.

Postmaster Veazey wrote a letter to Acting Postmaster General Stevenson yesterday, asking him to set a day for a hearing on his application for more facilities in the handling of the Baltimore mails. Mr. Veazey says it would be impossible for Mr. Stevenson to come to this city now and see what is needed, as he is kept busy in Washington. George W. Clark, the letter carrier who had a dispute with Henry Cruse and struck him while in his cigar store on South Anne street during a political discussion, has been suspended by the postmaster and recommended for dismissal. Mr. Veazey says he does not know Mr. Cruse, and is not interested in the topics of their quarrels ; that with 143 carriers it is impossible to depend upon the process of arrest and indictment to maintain discipline, and any official who engages in disputes with citizens and swears, abuses, or assaults a citizen will certainly be removed.

THE SPECIAL POSTAL DELIVERY.

What is Expected of the New System.—Possibility of its Extension to All Mail Matter,

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20.—It is thought at the Post-office Department that some weeks must elapse before the success or failure of the new special delivery system can be determined. The advocates of the system did not expect the results which are already foreshadowed. The idea of the law was to afford an opportunity for rapid communication at greater length than is usual with the telegraph. That is to say, it was believed that a person residing or visiting in Washington, for instance, might desire to communicate at length with parties in Indianapolis. Under the old system, a letter mailed in Washington, this evening, would reach its destination to-morrow, but would not be delivered until the following day. Now it will be delivered within an hour after it reaches Indianapolis, provided it bears a special stamp. It is found that in all large cities, where commercial communications are frequent, and where speed is required, that business men have ordered largely of the new stamps, and it is thought that one result will be the growth of a new branch of the Post-office Department, which will afford profitable employment to hundreds of boys and young men. It is understood that the Postmaster-General contemplates recommending to Congress the extension of the system to all mail matter, as well as the removal of the limit of compensation. The latter, because, in many cities, Brooklyn, Chicago and New York, for instance, the carrier limits are so wide that the boys will frequently be compelled to pay out more for car-fare than the 8 cents which they are allowed for carrying each letter.

THE FREE DELIVERY.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20.—During the fiscal year ended June 30 the carriers in the free delivery service delivered 464,996,842 mail letters, 104,742,598 mail postal cards, 143,406,578 local letters, 78,226,576 local postal cards, 3,187,965 registered letters and 256,054,602 newspapers. They collected 469,858,875 letters, 140,630,704 postal cards and 83,432,673 newspapers. The total number of pieces handled was 1,744,537,413, or an average per carrier of 400,307. The aggregate cost of the service was, including incidentals, $3,987,952—an average cost of 2.3 mills per piece, or of $912.90 per carrier. The postage on local matter was $5,281,721.10. The transactions at a few of the larger offices were as follows:

Cities.	Pieces Handled.	Cost of Service.	Per Piece in Mills
Baltimore	48,760,335	$121,318	2.5
Brooklyn	46,290,214	146,845	3.2
Chicago	202,804,326	297,959	1.5
Cincinnati	36,132,356	110,307	3.1
Galveston	3,055,940	7,995	2.6
Indianapolis	13,304,722	35,508	2.7
Milwaukee	20,003,177	43,204	2.1
New York	324,656,328	590,030	1.8
Philadelphia	175,687,761	427,080	2.4
San Francisco	40,415,705	79,349	1.9
Washington	19,744,454	70,910	3.5

The most expensive service, based on the number of pieces delivered, was at Gloucester, Mass., 5 mills per piece, and the cheapest service was at Dallas, Tex., where the cost was 1.1 mill per piece. The entire cost of the service was $481,746 more than the cost during the preceding fiscal year.

STAGE ROBBERS CAPTURED.

HELENA, Mont., Aug. 31.—The Marysville coach was stopped by two highwaymen about eight miles out of Helena, and the treasure box, containing about $12,000 in bullion, from the Drum Lunamon mine, taken. The passengers were relieved of their valuables, One of the robbers had given the plot away to officers, and when the treasure box was being broken open, the sheriff and a posse captured the robbers and recovered the booty. Passengers were made to stand in line at the muzzle of a gun held by one of the highwaymen, while the other went through them in the old fashioned manner. The prisoners are named Jackson and Gordon. Gordon will be released and get the reward of $600. Jackson has served seven years in the California penitentiary for stage robbing. He claims Gordon has worked the same scheme before, giving away plots for robbery and getting rewards.

BLAINE AND HATTON.

The Ex-Assistant Postmaster's Joke at the Maine Stateman's Expense.

"Let me tell you a little story about Jim Blaine and Frank Hatton," said a passenger from Burlington. "A few years ago Blaine was out in Iowa making speeches and Hatton was then chairman of our State committee, and of course went along with as big a man as Blaine to the various meetings. They were on the cars one day going to a country town to speak at a meeting, when Blaine turned to Hatton and said:

"'At this town we're going to I believe there's a man named Chris Schlagle, isn't there?'

"'Yes,' replied Hatton, 'and I know him by sight.'

"'If you see him on the grounds,' said Blaine, 'point him out to me. I used to know him down in Washington county, Pennsylvania.'

"After Blaine and Hatton had got upon the stand while some local orator was speaking, Hatton spoke to Blaine and told him where Schlagle was standing. Blaine got up and marched straight for the man pointed out to him.

"'How are you Chris?' he exclaimed, holding out his hand. 'I remember you well. You have changed very little since I knew you down in Washington county. I never forget a face. How is Mrs. Schlagle?'

"'B-but my name ain't Schlagle,' replied the astonished farmer; 'my name is Scheimerhorn and I was never in Pennsylvania in my life.'

"Blaine walked back to the platform quite discomfited. Hatton said he had made a mistake, but Blaine looked at him in a queer sort of a way, as if to say, 'I'll get even with you yet.' Hatton never shed a tear when the news came last fall that Blaine was defeated."—*Chicago Herald.*

CRAMPED FOR ROOM.

The Work of the Post-office Department Suffering for Lack of Space.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20—The Post-office Department is suffering for the lack of space, and it is probable that quite a revolution will take place in this department within the next year. At present the department is occupied largely by the clerks of the Sixth Auditor's office, who really belong to the Treasury Department. There are something like one hundred and fifty of these people scattered through the building, and the people who properly belong to the Post-office Department are, in consequence, crowded so badly that the work is very far behind. This is especially true in the First Auditor's office, where, in one small room, occupied by that veteran of the postal service, Chief Clerk Marr, there are no less than five desks and six people. This, in spite of the fact that it is a room that is as much frequented by outsiders as any in the department, Postmaster General Vilas has expressed his determination to have the Sixth Auditor's department removed outside the building, and it is likely that a strong effort will be made to have this done by the coming Congress. It is one of those reforms which advocate themselves, as the public business is a great sufferer by the crowded state of the building.—*Indianapolis Journal.*

A VIGOROUS POSTMASTER.

When J. K. Bogert was appointed Postmaster at Wilkesbarre it was generally remarked by those that knew him that he was the right man for the place. He has proved that such an estimate of his fitness was not incorrect by the vigorous manner he went about inaugurating some needed reforms in his office. It appears that the office had been a resort for loafers. When the new postmaster attempted to clean them out three of them attacked him. The demonstration of such an offensive kind of partisanship caused Mr. Bogert to act so energetically that, according to the dispatch, "he blackened one man's eye, pitched the second out into the gutter, while the other was arrested and lodged in the lock-up."

A country post-office is the circle around which the community marches in double and single file to the music of the mails.

NASBY.

Mr. Nasby and his Friends Complain of the Slowness of the President.

CONFEDERIT X ROADS (Wich is in the State uv Kentucky), Jooly 26, 1885.—In the interest of civil servis reform, Deekin Pogram, Issaker Gavitt and myself hev watched the Post Offis ten hours each day for two months, eggspectin every mail to reseeve our commishns. It didn't make much diffrence to me whether I loafed about the Post Offis or anywhere else, but it hez bin the rooin uv Issaker and the Deekin. Neether uv em hev hoed ther corn or dun a partikle uv work. Their wives hev put in ther time lively in the feelds and they will make a part uv a crop, but it will be mighty small. Sich is the effeck uv Presidenshel procrastinnashun on the industries uv the kentry.

Last nite our expectashens wuz very strong. We all seemed to hev a presentment that the evenin mail wood bring us the long-looked-fur docyments so that early in the mornin we cood percede to hist out the yooserpers wich hev bin yooserpin for twenty yeers, and instal ourselves in their places. Bascom wuz under the inflooence and wuz smilin and affable, even going to the extend uv askin me to take suthin, which is a correct barometer uv his frame uv mind.

We felt the more sekkoor, fur we hed two weeks before sent on a fresh batch uv docymence to strengthen the departments.

The male arrived, but no commishns, wen our barometer immejitly dropped. But we did git suthin in our Louisville paper wich finished us. It wuz the crooel announsement that the President hed gone to the mountains of Northern Noo York, to be gone two munths

To be gone two munths? What am I to do fur two munths? I can't follor the dispenser uv patronage to the Adirondax. I can't penetrate them vas forrests to shove my petishn at him. I kin manage to make Washington on the combinashen plan, walkin and bein kicked off tranes, but the Adirondax is impossible. He ain't goin up there to put his name to commishns—in fact the noosepaper planely states that he goes to the remotest forrests uv the North to escape the impertoonities uv them wich placed him in his high posishen.

The effeck upon all of us wuz tetchin in the eggstreme. Bascom turned to his desk, took out his ledger and turned over the hundred or more pages which contains my account and looked at me pensively and sat down and wept. Deekin Pogram got up and walked the floor moaning like one who refused to be comforted. Issaker placed his elbows on his knees and buried his face in his hands and wept profoose.

Just then who should come in but Joe Bigler, Pollock and the nigger Lubbock, all of em on a broad grin but Bigler. This feend showed us the paragraph and said he was disappinted. He hed hoped to be releeved sooner, but what could he do? Dooty to his kentry compelled him to hold on til he wuz removed and his successor wuz appinted. He regretted it, but dooty afore everything, and he shood hold on. Bascom heeved a bottle at him, and they retired laffin.

It hez bin the rool of my life never to question the doing uv the dispenser uv patronage, but my outraged soul must cry out at this or bust. Wuz it to hev a President to go to the Adirondax afore signin my comishn that I rallied the Dimokrisy uv Injeany, votin there twict myself, and contribbitin uv my slender meens to a fund fur transportin Kentuckians into that State? Wuz it fur this that I organized the groseries and seen to the distribushn uv likker in Suthern Injeany and Ohio? Wuz it fur this that fur forty long years, in season and out uv season, I hev labored fur Dimokrisy? Wuz it fur this that I crossed Lake Erie in an open boat to avoid servin in the Fedrel army, and afterward permitted myself to be drafted in the Confedrasy.

Ef I hev no voice in the Administrashen, my suffrins and sacrifices hev each a tongue. And yet the President—a Dimocratic President—goes to the Adirondax, and leaves my petishn unheeded.

I am in a terrible strate. Bascom immejitly serves notis onto me that I cood not hev a drop ceptin for cash, positively this time without reserve. He had follered ignis fatuses long enuff. Appintments wuz illusive, but likker was a stern reality. He paid cash fer likker, and must have cash in return. When he seed a commishn dooly eggsecootid, with the seal uv the Post-Offiis Department unto it he wood give credit, but not till then.

That night I went to bed parched and arid, and I awoke the next mornin feelin that I was a holler mockery. PETROLEUM V. NASBY
(Depressed).

—*Toledo Blade.*

NEWSPAPER POSTAGE.

Newspapers are now carried by the Government at the rate of one cent a pound It costs the Government fifteen cents a pound for this service, hence every newspaper is assisted by the Government to the amount of fourteen cents for every pound of its paper its sends out through the mails. There is no public outcry raised against this fraud—for it is a fraud on the people—because newspapers don't or won't see the injustice of it. It is claimed that as newsparers disseminate intelligence and are in a certain sense public educators, that there is nothing improper in their being fostered and encouraged at the public expense. All of which might be to a certain extent true if all papers had the high and holy mission of improving the condition of the people. But now notice that the papers which have an immense circulation, and get the greatest share of the benefits of these cheap rates are not those noted for their high and moral tone, but rather for its conspicuous absence. The sensational literary weeklies, the illustrated records of crime, frailties and follies, and the "snap" ventures that prey upon human gullibility are enabled to distribute their vile poison in every community, because of this generous co-operation of the government. The law which gives country papers the right of transportation in their own counties free of charge is a good one, because a country paper does a good public service in developing the place in which it is published. It renders valuable service for all the favors it receives, and its work is up-hill business at the best. But see the effect of this one-cent rate on the country newspapers. The weeklies in the large cities with the item of postage practically removed, can kill the business of the local paper, and they are doing it. The country papers should wake up and protect themselves. The cent a pound rate is a monstrous iniquity, although in saying so we are acting against our own interests. It is very convenient for us to have 20,000 copies of the *Plowman* carried for about $25, while 20,000 catalogues of a college, weighing the same amount, costs the college sending them out $200. But a wrong is a wrong, even if we reap a benefit out of it. No public money should be paid out for advancing private interests. The pound rate does this, and it is therefore wrong.

GRIM GERMAN HUMOR.

A curious form of German humor appears in a book published at Berlin, under the title, "Schultze and Maller in London." Here is a passage: "At 5:45 we went to the great post-office. The squeeze was tremendous round the newspaper box, the newspapers are thrust in bales, where it is, indeed, on a grand scale, since the *Times* alone has 16,000,000 subscribers. I warned Schultze not to go so near the crush, but he did not hear me. As he was standing there, there came a great shock of newspaper boys, running with bales of newspapers and throwing them in at the window. A bale of newspapers hit Schultze on the head; he loses his balance and tips head forward into the bureau. Half a dozen officers immediately seize him, stamp him in the stomach, and the unhappy Schultze is dispatched in an unpaid news packet to the provinces. At this moment the box is closed with a snap. I rush against it and cry, 'Schultze! Schultze!' But it is too late; your unhappy son-in-law was already packed in the post cart. I run into the bureau of the postmaster and demanded back your son-in-law. 'Is your friend addressed?' he asks. 'No,' I answer. 'Very well,' says the Englishman. 'M. Schultze will remain for six months in the bureau, and, if no one applies for him, he will be burned as a dead-letter.'"

OUR POST-OFFICE.

Our emotional contemporary the *Tribune*, with a sublime contempt for facts and evidence, relieves itself of much flatulent rhetoric whenever a Republican is removed from office if the case involves any incident or circumstance which can be colored and idealized. If a Republican is utterly incompetent, but has fifteen children, the tender heart of the *Tribune* pleads for his promotion instead of his removal. If a Republican is dishonest, but wears a cork leg, the sympathetic editorial bosom of the *Tribune* heaves with compassion for him and indignation for the cruel Democratic superior who cuts short his official tenure. The summary removal of Postmistress Sarah Christie at Nyack touches and wrenches the most sensitive chord in the Oversoul of the *Tribune*. It grows normally hysterical in the intensity of its wrath against that bad and ungallant man Vilas, who has cruelly deprived Miss Christie of her office. Pathetically and impressively it exclaims: "Colonel Vilas would do well to stick to the 'offensive partisan' method of justifying removals and let the women in office who perform their duties faithfully go free from attack." Unfortunately this general assertion involves a falsification of the facts when applied to the particular instance under consideration. The causes for the summary removal of Nyack's postmistress are found in the formal report of ex-Inspector Bradley, a Republican official, who discovered and attested that the Government had been systematically swindled by Nyack's late Postmaster (now dead), the father of Miss Christie. He operated a snug little Star Route, and the Government has a claim of $2,700 against his estate, although death has removed him beyond the reach of criminal proceedings. The *Tribune* speaks vaguely but reproachfully of "a blow at the reputation of Miss Christie's dead father." It is deplorable, of course, but the blow was struck by a Republican official whose functions were not of a partisan kind and who was sworn to protect the interests and integrity of the public service by unearthing dishonesty or irregularity wherever he found it.—*N. Y. Graphic.*

HOME LETTERS.

Alas! it is only too easy a dozen times a week, and in every variety of circumstance, to be selfish unsociable or indolent. It is selfish not to be willing to put ourselves out of the way to help and gratify those who are willing enough to help us, and who, when they write to us, of course expect us to answer them. It is unsocial never to dare to interchange a single idea with relatives, or neighbors, or friends. It is indolence that refuses the expenditure of a little time and trouble to remind distant kinsfolk that we still belong to each other, and that we think it worth while to be at the pains of writing a letter, though we may have nothing very special to say. The secret of all this is to have a kind heart, and to be willing to please and to add to each other's happiness.

Have you a sick sister, whose lonely life has but few bright clouds in it? Now and then make her feel that she is not utterly forgotten by the friend and companion of her happy childhood.

Is there a servant, retired from your service, who has nursed your children, been a kind and true friend to you in sad and dark hours, who is growing old, as yourself some day will grow old, with few changes in a dull life, and few pleasures in a poor one? Occasionally send a message to that dear friend, if not always in your hand, by your wife or child.

It will stir thoughts of slumbering happiness in a kind heart that has loved you with a love as good as a rich man's love, and served you with a service that no wages could repay. Or have you aged parents, living far away, it may be, in some remote home, whose monotonous and ever shortening life is never so pleasantly broken as by news of you; whose midnight thoughts and noonday musings are ever full of you; who grow young and brave in the thought of your success, and whose constant prayers have much more to do with it than you know of? Never let them feel that you are to busy to think of them, or too important to care for them. You will not have them much longer; but regularly make time to write.—*Dr. Talmage.*

A mail bag is an epitome of human life.

PIGEON-HOLED REPORTS.

Why Defaulting Postmasters Have Escaped Merited Justice.

An inquiry into the causes which made possible the appointment of F. B. Dunton as postmaster at Center Lincolnville, Me., while he was in jail, reveals a state of affairs in the Post-office Department which can hardly be realized. The investigation has been in progress for the past few weeks or more, and enough has been discovered to warrant the most vigorous measures of reform. It is shown briefly that there are postmasters still in office against whom charges of defalcation and other minor offenses have not only once, but even repeatedly been made, and this, too, by the sworn officers of the Department. The question which naturally arises is how could such a state of affairs exist? The answer is easy. Reports which have been forwarded in good faith to the First Assistant Postmaster General for his action have been pigeonholed by the corresponding clerks of his office, never seeing the light of day unless some specific call was made for their production.

There is at present no means of knowing exactly how many defaulting or delinquent postmasters are at present holding positions, but the files of the Department are being thoroughly overhauled. The list submitted to the Acting Postmaster General yesterday by Chief Clerk Nash gave, however, some idea of the results which may be anticipated. This list contained the names of several postmasters in States in all sections of the country, all the offices being of the Presidential class and several being of importance. The list, which was shown to a *Post* reporter, can not, of course, be published, as the arm of the law is about to reach out after the offenders; but underneath the name of each post-office and postmaster was a memorandum reading somewhat as follows:

December 16, 1883—Defalcation reported in postmaster's accounts, and case referred to chief inspector.

January 29, 1884—Report received, defalcation proved, and dismissal recommended.

February 1, 1884—Referred to First Assistant Postmaster General.

After such a statement as this there came in every case the significant words:

Postmaster still in office.

The corresponding clerks of the First Assistant's office are those to whom certain States are assigned and to whom all matters relating to post-offices in those States are directly referred, without being seen by the First Assistant. They write letters for that official to sign, and the position is one of responsibility. It is at present believed at the department that the system, more than the clerks, is to blame. The pigeon-holing of important reports seems, of course inexcusable, but the practice has been so general that to believe one man guilty is to believe that a widespread conspiracy existed to shield Republican officials. The last Administration was itself imposed upon. In the case of the Oneonta post-office, in New York, the postmaster was found upon investigation to be a defaulter in a large amount. This fact was reported to the First Assistant Postmaster General on the 28th of last January, and yet, on February 28, only thirty days afterward, the same postmaster was reappointed for four years. Unless the Post-office Department was totally demoralized, it is not likely that a defaulter was knowingly appointed. The report of the inspector who examined the charges was secreted in a pigeon-hole of a clerk in the office.

Upon several of these cases the Department has already acted. In one instance, occurring in Ohio considerably over a year ago, the failure of the postmaster to deposit his funds as required by law was referred to the chief inspector, whose investigation sustained the charge. The matter was sent to the First Assistant's office, where no action was taken. A second delinquency was reported some months afterward, and again inspectors visited the office. Their report was of the most positive character. The official was found to be a man of loose business habits, a jack-of-all-trades, who kept Government money and his personal funds in a delightful state of confusion, and who did not even have wit enough to secure Government property in a small safe he happened to own. The inspectors concluded by forcibly recommending the dismissal of the postmaster, and their report was sent, in the usual course of official business, to the First Assistant's office. There it remained secreted in a pigeon-hole. Recently it was accidentally discovered, because the office became a Presidentiol one, and the papers relating to the postmaster were unexpectedly called for. The delinquent official was promptly removed.

The first step toward reform was made yesterday. Chief Clerk Nash, with the approval of Acting Postmaster General Stevenson, addressed to the chief of the Money Order Office and the chief inspector the following letter:

> SIR: Hereafter, upon receipt of a report from an inspector or through any other source where the information may come to your office, that a postmaster is delinquent in his financial transactions with the Government, you will, if it is a fourth-class office, notify the First Assistant Postmaster General by letter, and where it is a Presidential office send to this office a notice of such fact, with a statement of the date when you notified the corresponding clerk of such dereliction.
>
> This is done that prompt action may be taken by the Government against loss.
>
> T. E. NASH, Chief Clerk.

Mr. E. C. Fowler, chief of appointments in the First Assistant's office, was notified as follows:

> Hereafter, when a report is received from the money order and finance divisions or the chief inspector, showing that a postmaster has misappropriated funds, failed to deposit upon order of this office or any such other case as would indicate that the Government is liable to lose through his further continuance in office, you will have the case made up upon one of the new forms, and, if a fourth-class office, have it placed upon the First Assistant Postmaster General's desk, or if a Presidential, upon the Postmaster General's, that the matter may receive attention at once. T. E. NASH, Chief Clerk.

The new forms above referred to consist of a special jacket of a bright melon-colored paper, which will be immediately conspicuous when laid upon the desks of the officials named, no matter how many other papers may be lying there at the same time. In these several ways the present Administration will see that the present abuse is thoroughly and radically cured. It may be of interest, also, to add that the Postmaster General has given directions that wrong doing on the part of Democratic postmasters shall be reported to him as speedily as if the delinquent was an appointee of the last Administration.

SPECIAL DELIVERY FAILURE.

WASHINGTON, October 23.—At the Post-office Department it is said that the special delivery system is not making as much progress as was expected. From the reports thus far received it appears that New York and San Francisco are the only two cities where the service is self-sustaining.

There is a general complaint about the scarcity of messenger boys. In many places the boys, after working a few days, give up their situations because of the lack of special delivery business. Three or four messages per day will not pay them for the amount of time they are required to be on duty. In New York City substitute letter carriers perform the messenger service when not otherwise employed, and with the "subbing" they pick up messages enough to make a fair month's wages. It seems probable that the special delivery service will eventually be confined only to offices where the carrier system prevails, and the special deliveries madet by "subs."

VILAS' MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 23.—Postmaster General Vilas has secured an additional ship for the transportation of mails from Pampa to Cuba, and expects to be able to dispatch the mails hereafter between the United States and Havana without delays. An officer of the Post-office Department, well informed as to the President's intentions, says that it is his purpose to cover into the Treasury before the end of the fiscal year the $400,000 which Congress appropriated as a subsidy or mail pay, and he does not think that Congress will be able to take any legislation directing him to expend this money as the subsidy grabbers demanded. The Postmaster General expects that the Democratic House at least will enthusiastically support him in his interpretation of the law, and his refusal to disburse the $400,000 to American steamship lines.

"BLACK BART'S" PEER.

One of California's Most Reckless Stage Robbers.

A medium sized man, about twenty-six years of age, with rosy cheeks, clear, gray eyes, having about him a generally peaceful and meek appearance, and wearing a pair of government bracelets, was brought over from San Quentin to-day, in charge of a United States Deputy Marshal. He answers to the names of William Smith and P. C. Weibush, and has just finished a term of five years for robbing Wells, Fargo & Co.'s express on the stage from Milton to Sonora, December 29, 1881, at which time he detained the stage one and a half hours, while trying to break open the box. He also robbed the United States mail, and for this he is now to be tried.

"That's the coolest one I ever saw," said a Deputy Marshal this morning as the robber went to sit for his picture, after which he will go to jail to await his trial. "He is ahead of 'Black Bart' a long way, for he is a fighter, and don't know what fear means. His greatest exploit was in June, 1881, when he robbed Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express on the road from Sierraville to Truckee. He wore a mask with but one eyehole, tramped down the brush so that he could see when the stage was coming, took his shotgun and seating himself on a log awaited developments. They came first in the shape of a light wagon containing seven men, who drove up behind Smith before he could get out of sight. He promptly pulled his gun on them, made them get out, take off their coats, surrender weapons, and then lift their wagon to one side, in the brush, where it would be out of sight of the stage driver. He then made the seven men stand where he could command them with his shooter, and again calmly took his seat on the log.

"A driver and four-horse team came next, and the mule-whacker shared the fate of the others, pulling his team out of sight and joining the group of coatless mourners. Another team came along, and the driver also concluded to mingle with the audience, and got his outfit off the grade.

"The little Dutchman was on hand cool and collected, and when the stage came up he stopped it, compelled the four passengers to join the gang, while the driver, through the influence of the shotgun, performed the arduous duty of breaking open the treasure box and mail sacks, and wrapping up the contents in a nice package for the robber. This thrilling performance lasted one hour and a half, during which thirteen men, sixteen horses and four vehicles performed at the muzzle of the Dutchman's little shotgun.

"The last act closed by the thirteen men being loaded into the stage and started up the road with the admonition that no one should look back before the stage had traveled two miles, unless he wanted to die. The orders were obeyed, and Smith got away with his plunder. In August of the same year, in the same locality, he stopped the same driver and again made him break open the treasure box. His next robbery was in the December following, which resulted in his arrest by Sheriff Tom Cunningham, of San Joaquin county. This is the crime for which he has just served his term."

Smith was also convicted of stage robbery in Nevada, and sentenced to five years' imprisonment, but was pardoned before serving two years. The United States authorities say there is no possibility of Smith escaping conviction, and that he will receive a life sentence.

His wages at the State Prison have been ten cents per day, out of which he has bought underclothes, tobacco and other luxuries and $40.

POSTMASTER ELLSBERRY TAKES CHARGE.

IRONTON, O, Oct. 19.—Benj. F. Ellsberry, our new Postmaster, took charge of the post-office to-day, Mr. Steece the retiring Postmaster, turning everything over in first-class order. Mr. Ellsberry is a very popular gentleman, and his appointment gives almost universal satisfaction among both political parties. It has been nearly thirty years since Ironton has had a Democratic Postmaster, William T. Hand being the last one. He died about 1859, and was succeeded by a Republican, since which time it has been in their possession uninterruptedly.

LOVE LETTERS IN COURT.

A Fair Maiden Awarded $1,250 Damages in a Breach-of-Promise Suit.

POTTSVILLE, PA., Sept. 27.—Emma R. Stout was to-day awarded $1,250 in a breach-of-promise case against Jacob Biltz, the son of a wealthy merchant of Ashland. Miss Stout is a native of Pottsville. Two years ago she was teaching school at Rockaway, N. J. While visiting Ashland she met Biltz, and he pressed his suit with ardor. On her return to Rockaway he wrote her many letters in the highest style of amatory epistles, which, when read in the crowded court-room, created the most intense amusement. He visited her and proposed. In response to her cautious inquiries as to his prospects in life, he said the "governor" was giving him $35 a month and board now, but if he wedded would do much better. After thinking over it a day she accepted him on condition that he would wait until the end of her school term. He wanted to wed at Christmas, but she declined this, and he finally accepted her terms.

He then wrote many more letters—sometimes three or four a week—all filled with the most ardent love terms. As the time for the wedding approached Miss Stout prepared her trousseau, and returned to her mother's home in Pottsville. Then Biltz's letters became less frequent, and finally stopped. When she called on him for an explanation, he said "No. 1," as he styled his father, was not doing what he should, and gave her to understand the match was off. Then she sued for $5,000 damages. The case was arbitrated a year ago, and she got an award for $600. She appealed to court, and he offered to settle for $450.

The case was called for trial yesterday. The court-room was packed. The plaintiff, who is a pretty and intelligent young woman, told her story, and produced his letters. To-day Biltz went on the stand, and exhibited hers. Biltz announced that he was ready to marry Miss Emma now, and to have Judge Pershing perform the ceremony. The plaintiff's counsel objected, and argued that he could not set up a willingness to make a new contract as a set-off for a broken one, and this the court sustained. The jury, after being out two hours, returned with a verdict for the fair plaintiff for $1,250.

Biltz says his father will not help him, and he will go to jail for three months, and then apply for his discharge under the insolvent law. Miss Stout, still unsatisfied, will push the case in the higher courts.

THE CONVENTION.

There are 50,000 Third and Fourth-class Postmasters. They have a grievance against the Government that they jointly propose to try and get abated. As a matter of fact, postmasters of the third and fourth grades don't consider they are so terribly indebted to the Government. A postmaster of one of these grades, for instance, expends money in the interest of the mail service for which he is never reimbursed. He pays all expenses for rent, light and fuel, while as concerns box rents, though he owns the boxes, the Government takes the largest part of the revenue from their rental. Now, the first step the postmasters intend taking is a convention, and this they will hold in Chicago, Wednesday and Thursday, November 26 and 27. At this convention, which has been projected to a great degree by the editor of the UNITED STATES MAIL, it is proposed to organize a national association, which shall look after the interests of postmasters of the third and fourth grades who regard themselves as unjustly treated by the Government. Those promoting this step expect a large attendance—3,000 it is said—and, as a result of the convention, vigorous measures before Congress in their behalf. This will be a new kind of convention, for servants of the Government these days don't generally indulge in these political luxuries unless expecting, or already bearing the brand of "offensive partisanship."—*Chicago Inter-Ocean.*

POST-OFFICE Inspectors should send reports of all good cases to the UNITED STATES MAIL.

THE *Official Postal Guide* is booming under the new management.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

Vim, energy, vitality, a clear and unusually active mind are characteristic of this man. Generally speaking, nature has been generous to him. With all his fire, enthusiasm and almost restless nature he would be very apt to burn his forces up if he did not have a remarkably strong constitution and an abundance of recuperative power. Here is a live man—one who makes business and does business; can plan, organize or push an enterprise; can survey a field and take it in in most of its bearings and relations almost at a glance; is fertile in resources and expedients, hardly ever at a loss what to do, but is a man who, with all his push, holds a tight rein. His large caution makes him look away ahead and prepare for contingencies. He is ambitious, but has not enough self-esteem to give him all the easy self-assurance or consciousness of his own power he should have. His ambition and grit carry him through, not his self-esteem; is naturally exceedingly sensitive; with more self-esteem would be able to make himself more effectively; reads human nature at sight; is an uncommonly keen observer; gathers knowledge on the wing, is quick to see, to comprehend, and at the same time is able to draw inferences and elaborate—as a speaker should be clear, earnest and forcible. What he believes he impresses upon others He is a man who would never stay down. He is bound to be felt and to be one of the first; comprehends details, has system and method about him, but personally does not like to be confined to a routine of detail work; has the cast of mind that makes an expert, for he has that clear discrimination that enables him to perceive truth. This man could turn his hand to great variety of work; would make his mark in engineering, manufacture, science, literature, medicine, law or some business enterprise. He is calculated for any position where a clear head, a close judgment and enterprise are required; when the intensity of his energy is toned by still more mature years and responsibility has developed more quiet dignity, this man will then realize best the full force of his powers, and stand at the front in legislative or executive responsibilities, especially if he will always be true to his own convictions, for he has a full development of the upper head or higher powers and motives, and should always notice how a person, a project or an idea impresses him, for his intuition will tell him the truth. Is evidently strong in his attachments and earnest in his convictions. What he does he does with his whole soul, and may at times be too impatient of results. Has evidently a sense of duty and feeling of humanity. He believes what he believes thoroughly; will be true to his trusts, his friends or his purposes; is not afraid of obstacles, rather delights in encountering and overcoming some obstruction or mastering a difficulty; could not be content with nothing to do.

The comments here made are such as are of interest to the public as measures of the character of those who are intrusted with the management of public matters. It is not proper or necessary to go farther than this.

POSTMASTER'S BALANCES.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16.—Just before the death of Sixth Auditor Ela that gentleman, at the suggestion of Mr. Clifford, now deputy Sixth Auditor, inaugurated a radical reform in that branch of the Treasury Department. Up to that time, for more than twenty years, the custom had been in this branch of the Department to insist upon prompt payment of all balances due the Government from fourth-class postmasters, while balances to them were never paid. Ela said that the business of his office was to adjust accounts between the Government and its postal agents, and he at once ordered, where balances were due to postmasters, they should be at once notified. Under this order thousands of men—in many cases poor ones, too—have been paid small amounts to which they are entitled, and others are still being paid as rapidly as possible.

"HAVE you got my *male?*" asked a greatly excited woman in Kalamazoo, the other day, of a neighbor of hers who was supposed to have a fondness for the lady's husband.

QUICK LETTER DELIVERY.

Is the New System to Prove a Flat Failure.

The special delivery messenger boys still loaf lazily about the waiting room at the Third-street entrance of the Post-office, and speculate on the probabilities of ever becoming bond-holders. The amounts earned by each up to the present time would hardly buy cigarettes for the smallest boy in the lot. The general opinion is that the new idea is "no good," and that the sooner it is abandoned the better for the mail service. It has resulted up to the present time in being simply an ornamental branch of the service, and is already beginning to fall into disuse. The post-office employés find the special delivery system rapidly losing favor, and the boys employed in delivering the messages are already mutinous and talk of striking.

The idea when the new system was put into operation was that it would at once spring into popularity, and that it would fill the place of the district messenger at a much smaller price. That this is erroneous is plainly apparent, as the method is less used now than it was the first week, and there seems to be a steady falling off in the number of letters delivered daily. The messengers employed find it impossible to earn anything like fair compensation for their labor, and are greatly dissatisfied. The only means possible to keep the system up will be at the cost of the Government, as the public seem not at all disposed to pay twelve cents for what can be almost as easily accomplished for two.

The boys employed as messengers are putting in their time lounging about the post-office, and intense excitement is created when it becomes necessary for one of them to deliver a letter. The *ennui* of the situation drove one to the verge of despair, and in a rash moment he resigned his position with all its perquisites and emoluments. The fourteen remaining are still in hope that 'something will turn up." The first week of the special delivery 310 letters were delivered and the second week 316. The increase in the second week was caused by a Sunday mail, and excepting the delivery of that day the number was smaller the second week than the first. This makes the average amount earned per day by the messengers only twenty-four cents for one week and twenty-eight cents per day the second. The boys threaten to quit. This does not frighten the officers in the least, as they say that there are plenty of applicants for the positions, even when it is known that the best day's earnings yet made was thirty cents.—*Courier-Journal, Louisville, Ky.*

SPECIAL DELIVERY PERPLEXITIES.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13.—Postmasters in the small cities and towns are having an unhappy time over the special delivery system. Their reports to the Department contain some amusing accounts of their perplexity. The Postmaster at Corry, Pa., writes: "I have been unable to find a boy to take the position of messenger for the special delivery service that is a good, trustworthy boy. The only one in the vicinity who wants it is a young man whose brother was sent to the penitentiary for robbing the mail. Of course, I did not entertain this application. The boys and young men appear to think there is no money in it. I guaranteed eight cents for each letter, which was all the inducement I could offer. There is one young man considering the question, and I will send you his name and some others to-morrow, if possible to secure him. Meantime, I will deliver all letters promptly."

The Postmaster at Adrian, Mich., says: "Thus far the inhabitants complain about being awakened for the purpose. The streets are not numbered nor lighted, and the night delivery thus far has not been secured. The service requires more reliability than the ordinary boy possesses, and the present messengers decline to retain the positions and be up nights till midnight, prowling around among tenement houses and fighting off bull dogs, and I decided to write concerning such mails as arrived after 9 P. M. In five days the receipt of letters numbered fifteen, or an average of three per day, and a good share of these were addressed to women of doubtful character. All have been delivered."

RAILWAY MAIL CLERKS

And How They are Examined.

The railway mail service of the United States, like many other industries, is only thoroughly understood by the men who are or have been in it. To this branch of the government service are intrusted the distribution and dispatch of mails on all railroads and inland steamboat mail lines, the management of the postal car service and the general direction of the distribution and dispatch of mails from all post-offices. The country is separated into nine divisions for this work, the first or New England division having headquarters at Boston. A railway post-office, "R. P. O." as it is commonly termed, is the whole or part of a car on any given train which is given up to the use of the postal clerks. The same term is used in a general way to designate the service on a certain railroad, as the "B. and A. R. P. O." There is a general superintendent located at Washington, a division superintendent at Boston and a chief clerk for each railway route. There are about a dozen men living in Springfield who are employed as railway postal clerks, and who take their turn, year after year, at the ups and downs of the service. It is a life where intelligence, experience, alertness and muscle all count, for some of the mail bags are heavy enough to task a man's best endurance. The average run for each man is 200 miles a day, or 1,200 a week for 26 weeks in the year, the rest of the time being at the clerk's own disposal. In case he is on a road which is only fifty miles long he must work every day, and if the distance is only half as long he must double his daily trips. For instance, the Springfield man who runs to Athol makes one round trip daily over the road, while the clerk serving on the New England branch line between here and Hartford has to score two round trips. The work on the branch lines is light and the men on the through routes are constantly joking their "huckleberry" brethren, who have a sort of cubby-hole partitioned off in the baggage-car for their solitary use, while the crew of an express mail train includes four or five men, one of them being the clerk in charge of the car. There are four grades among these clerks, and when a man begins work he is taken on trial for six months at $800 a year. The salary of the lowest grade is $900, then $1,000 is paid, then $1 150, the highest sum being $1,300, although the law provides that the men of this grade may have $1,400.

People who get casual glances at these postal clerks as they swiftly sort their mails at stations, or while the train is moving at the rate of forty miles an hour, who watch them dart from the car platform while yet the wheels are in motion, to open a depot letter-box ere the bell rings to start again, who note that they are the first passengers to begin their midnight lunch at the restaurant, know that their work is anything but boy's play. There is, of course, much difference in the amount of work required on different routes and different trains on the same route, the direction in which the cars are going often making the difference. A crew going into Boston from this city in the morning may be kept very busy, while in coming out late in the afternoon they will have but little to do, even with half the number of men. The route from Boston to New York is called the "man-killer." It is claimed that when one of Congressman Collins' wards was recently assigned to a place there he only ran to New York once and as far back as Charlton, when he threw down his keys in disgust and said that if that was all the job Collins could give him he had had enough of it. Some of the Springfield men, those for instance who run from Boston to Albany, have to "dead-head it" for long distances in connection with each trip, in order to have any time with their families. The railroads furnish them with passes, which in some cases have to be renewed monthly.

While in one sense the railway mail service is untouched by the civil-service reform rules, in another it is the very embodiment of those rules, a bright and shining example of what they ought to accomplish for other branches of the service. The men are appointed, without examination, to their six months' probation, and then to the lower grade, if they have passed their examination well and made themselves useful meanwhile. If any of the clerks fail to reach a standard of 95 per cent. in their examinations they must take a second one, and if they then fall below that standard they are liable to be degraded. These examinations differ from anything known to other branches of the civil service. In distributing the mail on a postal car the chief aim is to so direct the course of a letter that it will reach its destination at the earliest possible moment. To secure this end the clerk must throw that letter into the right pigeon-hole in making his distribution, and see that it gets into the right pouch and is put off the train at the right moment. His examination, therefore, consists in going through this same work of distribution while standing before a case placed in the office of this division which is like the one he uses on the train. Suppose he is in the habit of making the Boston run on the train which leaves here at 7:15 A. M. and is to be examined on the State of Massachusetts. He is furnished with as many pasteboard cards as there are post-offices in the State, one name being printed on each, and he must "put them up" in the pigeon-holes where they should go if he were handling letters on the train.

These divisions of the case are called separations. On the train referred to there would be a separation for each station between here and Boston, and at least one for each converging route, with others thrown in for special reasons, the Monson morning mail, for instance, being made up between here and Palmer, because there is no agent on the connecting train south. It should be noticed that in his examination the clerk must handle the mail for the whole State, west as well as east, because it is liable to get mixed in the hurry of making up at some post-office, so that he may have a number of Westfield, Pittsfield and North Adams letters to put on the first train going in the opposite direction. And if it is in summer, he must govern himself according to the demands of the season, for there will be a number of post-offices, like Siasconset, to take note of, which do not exist in winter. It will be seen that the examination of another clerk who runs over the same route and in the same direction, but at a later hour in the day, will be quite different. Because it might happen that a letter for Gardner would have to take a different course to get through in the best time if it left here at 11:05 than if it started at 7:15. The intricacies of the system are beyond exact explanation on paper. All that one can hope to do is to furnish a few hints as to the ground which these examinations cover. They are held whenever the division officials decree, the men being given a couple of weeks' notice. The officials make up the routes to be followed, according to the latest time-tables in a book, and the clerks copy them into their books, so as to jog their memories before the examination. Each man has a set of cards of his own, with which he is at liberty to practice to his heart's content. The examination is conducted by a clerk at the division office, who has the official book to guide him. He times the man who is being examined and furnishes him with a record of his work, which is also placed in a book for the inspection of his fellow clerks. The men who live in this region are usually examined on Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Rhode Island, some, of course, taking Vermont. Maine is not worked so closely by them that an examination on it is necessary. Occasionally a man will "put up" a State without an error, and there are clerks who have come out perfect on three or four States. But it is a general maxim among the guild that "no man can know it all" and the best are liable to get caught on some of the twists and turns of the distributions. They have to be the most careful on the small States. A single error in Rhode Island counts off nearly one per cent.

An insight at the work done on a postal car is always interesting to such outsiders as are fortunate enough to secure government permits to ride inside a railroad post-office. Take for example the before-mentioned 7:15 train east. The car carries the head clerk and three assistants, the fourth man being known as the helper. The car was "dressed" when the clerks left it on the previous evening, that is, the open-mouthed pouches were hung in their places, one for each distribution, and properly labeled, with canvas sacks in which to put the newspapers for the large stations. When the train moves up to the depot platform, the big western mail which came in on the Modoc a few minutes before is transferred to the postal-car, and the Springfield pouches are also hoisted into their places. It is the distinctive work of the helper to take the mail in and throw it off. He also locks and unlocks the pouches and pours the contents on the tables, making himself generally useful. The head clerk takes care of the registered letters and "works" the Massachusetts letters, the second clerk doing the same thing with those going to other States. The third man throws out the letters from the general pile which the others are to distribute and also throws the newspapers into the pouches and sacks. The pouches which represent single stations and a limited territory are made to hold both letters and papers. Under this plan the Warren papers are being thrown into the Warren pouch while the train is moving toward that point and the letters are collecting in the Warren pigeon-hole. After leaving West Warren the head clerk takes these letters, ties them together with a string and throws them into the pouch, which is then locked, ready to be flung on the station platform. This is the process which is constantly being repeated till the train reaches Boston, except that any description of it is very tame as compared with the reality.

Not a moment can be lost. The air of the car must constantly be thick with letters, packages and papers. Eight pouches must be made up ready to be thrown off at Palmer during the 15-miles' run from this city. The fact that the Modoc's mail is not worked at all this side of Albany adds very much to the burdens of the crew on the 7:15 train, making it the hardest run on the road. The western mail on the night Modoc is very heavy and is handled by five men. On one trip during a Christmas week the mail weighed thirteen tons, and there was a breakdown here in the Springfield depot. The head clerk has to make a report at the end of each trip in regard to the pouches handled, any that missed connections, etc., and if there are deficiencies to be accounted for the clerk to whom they are chargeable is offered an early opportunity for explanation. Most of the clerks are Republicans; a few of them are Democrats. Politics has little to do with the tenure of their places as yet. Not many removals are anticipated from this cause. Some people think the berths of these men very desirable because they are supposed to work but half the time. But those who are stationed on the through lines say that it would be impossible for them to work all the time, neither would it pay, considering the hotel charges when they are away from home. Promotion for the men on the branch roads is not common. When a clerk gets into such a place he is pretty apt to stay there These clerks are sometimes examined here, instead of going to Boston, an examining clerk putting up a case for their use in the basement of the post-office. The efficiency of the service and the infrequency of serious mistakes are wonderful. Once in a while, however, disaster dire comes down on the head of a postal clerk. Diligent and fruitless search was once needed for a missing pouch until the fact was developed that it slid out of the car door, unnoticed by anybody, while the train was crossing a bridge, and fell into the Hudson River. Occasionally an unlucky throw will send a pouch under the wheels of a moving express train, reducing much of the contents to pulp. The night clerks have the hardest work. On the Boston and Albany and New York lines they have Sunday runs, which the day men escape. All the clerks in a crew have to take the same examinations, although those in the lowest grade handle but a small part of the letters.

THE Democrats of the town of Berlin, N. Y., having been called together to elect delegates to the Assembly District Convention, adopted the following resolution, and then adjourned sine die:

"That we, the Democrats of the town of Berlin, in caucus assembled, do hereby pledge ourselves that we will not send a delegate to any convention, nor vote a Democratic ticket, as long as Almon M. Hull remains postmaster of Berlin."

NOT A HAPPY LIFE.

The Great Pressure of the Correspondence of the Average Congressman.

"No sir, we don't live in clover." And he drew in a long breath and seated himself down in his chair as if resigned to his impending doom. "Why, it started this way—it always has a start; any member will tell you—it started this way: As soon as I got to Congress I got a letter from one of my constituents congratulating me upon my election, and saying that he knew now there would be some legislation; the Constitution should not be violated; I must introduce a bill in the House to prohibit fishing in my district with three hooks to one line—'twas unconstitutional. I answered that letter, bewailing the utter disregard of Congress for the national fisheries. and explaining the utter uselessness of attempting class legislation. That settled it. I got four letters from that neighborhood by returning mail, and they kept on increasing until the entire population was represented by autograph letters. My promptness to answer any and all letters was heralded all over the country, and I was asked to pass all sorts of bills, from one to regulate the length of prayers to one for the suppression of kissing at pound parties. One man wanted to know whether the rope that Guiteau was hung with was hemp or cotton. I referred this letter to the Department of Justice. The Attorney-general indorsed it to the warden of the jail, who returned it to me with a minute official description of the rope—the material, length and manner of make. This contributed largely to increase my correspondence. Everybody who had something to write about that no one else would notice was told my address, with the assurance that I loved to write letters. A large number of my letters now are from applicants for places under the new administration. One man wanted a place that would take him to Canada; he did not know what particular place. His doctor had told him that it would benefit his health to live there, and if I would just look around and find a place there for him with a pretty good salary attached he would like it. 'But, by the way,' he had children just growing up. I might take this into consideration and get him located where there were good free schools.

"Another fellow wrote that he would leave it to me to pick out his place for him. but I mustn't get the salary below $1,200. He thought I'd be a better judge of good places than he was.

"Some men may refer these letters to the waste basket, but it don't do. They must be answered. I must write; good-by. I mustn't waste more time talking. I'll have to sit up late to make up for it. I must write. The walls are closing around me."

"Well, my good fellow, what can I do for you?" and he turned to a suppliant in soldier clothes, who stood at his elbow with persistency in his face and a glazed cap in his hand.

"I'm an American by adoption. In '59 I married an American woman with a mute—her grandfather left it to—"

But at this point the petitioner was thrust aside by a Mexican pensioner who wore three medals and had been a personal friend of Winfield Scott, and wanted his pension increased.—*Washington Star.*

POSTAL IRREGULARITIES EXAGGERATED.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—The announcement of discoveries by the Post-office Department of extensive irregularities in the mailing of letters and circulars at small New England offices, for the purpose of increasing the business of the offices, so as to effect an increase of the postmaster's salary, is thought to be greatly exaggerated. It is sought to create the impression that such practices are almost universal in post-offices around Boston, the evident purpose being to put these offices generally under a suspicion that will facilitate removals. While some irregularities have been discovered, there is no justification for the wholesale manner in which the accusations have been made. It is intimated that there is a disposition to take advantage of the least irregularity or abuse, to give out an impression that they are illustrations of the general rule and in this way to facilitate the work of the officials.

UNMAILABLE, UNDELIVERED AND DEAD MAIL-MATTER.

The following portions of chapter thirteen of the Postal Laws and Regulations, concerning the disposal of unmailable, undelivered, and dead mail-matter, are published for the information of postmasters:

Sec. 432. *Definition and Classification of Unmailable Matter.*—Unmailable matter includes all matter which is by law, regulation, or treaty stipulation prohibited from being transmitted through the mails; or which, by reason of illegible, incorrect, or insufficient address, it is found impossible to forward to destination. For convenience it is divided into the following classes:

(*a.*) *Held for Postage;* or that matter which is insufficiently prepaid to entitle it to be forwarded in the mails. (For rates of postage and conditions of payment on matter addressed to foreign countries, see Foreign Postage Table in any recent number of United States Postal Guide. See also Title VII.)

(*b.*) *Misdirected;* or that matter which is so incorrectly, insufficiently, or illegibly addressed that it can not be forwarded to the person for whom it is intended.

(*c.*) *Excess of weight and size;* or those packages of domestic third and fourth-class matter weighing more than four pounds each, except single books exceeding that weight, and of foreign matter which are in excess of the weight or size fixed by treaty stipulation as the maximum for such matter. (For regulations in regard to weight and size of matter addressed to foreign countries, see any recent number United States Postal Guide. See also Title VII.)

(*d.*) *Destructive* matter; or that matter which, from its harmful nature, is forbidden to be in the mails. (See also section 222, and rulings published in the United States Postal Guide.)

(*e.*) *Coin and jewelry;* or that matter, to-wit: coins, jewelry, or precious articles, which is by treaty stipulation prohibited from being sent in the mails to certain foreign countries. (See latest United States Postal Guide and Title VII.)

(*f.*) *Obscene;* or that matter which is by section 225 prohibited from being sent in the mails.

(*g.*) *Lottery;* or that matter which is by section 226 prohibited from being sent in the mails.

(*h.*) *Mutilated;* or that matter which is recovered from wrecked or burned mail cars or vessels, or which has been so damaged by any means whatever that it can not be forwarded to its destination. This includes also all matter recovered from depredation on the mails

THE POST-OFFICE.

No one of the Executive Departments ministers so effectually to the every-day wants of the people as the General Post-office. By opening channels of comunication between widely separated communities, and by the rapid dissemination of information adapted to instruct the masses, it becomes a highly valuable instrumentality for advancing the public virtue and intelligence. Its influence in promoting the civilization of new settlements is only surpassed by that of the pulpit, the school house and the press, whose issues it circulates. Wherever the mail carriers, with their instructive packets, make their appearance, law and order gradually supersede the rude customs and the violence of savage life. By means of the rapid interchange of thought which postal intercourse effects, the most distant portions of the body politic are closely united and firmly cemented. Besides the convenience to individuals and families resulting from its agency, the commercial prosperity of a nation is potently advanced by a well regulated postal establishment. Further, its tendencies to break down the barriers interposed between nations by ignorance and non-intercourse, through the enlarged political thought and records of social progress which it transmits from one to the other, are of inestimable value. In short, whether viewed in its influence upon families, communities or States, the Post-office is entitled to be regarded as an immense benefactor. Its mission is one exclusively of peace and good will, and prosperity and happiness.

Send in your subscription—$2 for one year.

LOVE LETTERS.

Some one was saying the other day that the art of writing love letters was a lost art. If so, it must be that love has gone rather out of fashion. It seems to us that whoever loves will naturally write an irreproachable love letter, if he allows his pen to report the emotions of his heart. To be sure, there are those prudent lovers who never put anything upon paper—that is, anything in particular—not exactly because they expect to be sued for a breach of promise some fine day, but because it is unsafe, and letters run a great risk, pass through innumerable hands and pretty phrases and endearments are too precious to be endangered; others regard their emotions as too sincere and divine to be written out, and are afraid, perhaps, that they will savor of exaggeration; while others would like to express a great deal, but their thoughts fly awkwardly from the pen, and seem to lose half their significance. Many who can talk love and nonsense by the yard, lose their facility the instant they touch a pen; they need the electric presence of the object of inspiration, the retort, the response, or they write an essay instead of a love letter; others, again, can produce the most gushing specimens of the art, but are dumb before the shrine. Of course the love letter which would seem like a drop of distilled honey to one recipient, would appear cold and calculated to another; one will idealize even the baldest possible expressions till they will seem to shine with the radience of love itself, will say all the writer would have to say if he knew how; while to her neighbor the sweetest words will not suffice to fill the measure of her expectations and imagination, since she always anticipates something sweeter than human thought can frame. One reads between the lines, and discovers there all the beauties she covets; the other wants everything in black and white, and nothing left to the imagination. There are those who like to read from their love letters to a curious or envious audience; and others—a few—like Hawthorne, who wrote to his wife: "Your letters are too sacred to be read in the midst of people. I never read them," he adds, "without first washing my hands." One would hardly care for them if she could not boast of their possession and advertise it; another feels that they are almost too personal and dear to mention, and learns the contents by heart, as if they were so many poems, as indeed they are to her experience. The love letter must not be too long, nor yet too short, but of that just measure that the reader shall always wish there were yet a little more, if only a postscript; and it should be of that quality which suggests such lovely and tender thoughts and on a second perusal one is surprised to find that they are not expressed in so many words, so certain was she that they originated with the writer.

A HUMOROUS INCIDENT AT THE REVENUE OFFICE.

The routine business of the Internal Revenue Office in the Post-office Building was enlivened Thursday by a little incident of a humorous character. A man came to one of the clerks and said he wanted to make an application. He was referred to Deputy Collector Gray, who set about the preliminary questioning: "Do you sell liquor!" he asked. "No, sir," was the reply. "Tobacco, then? Have you sold any tobacco since the first of May?" "No, sir," again responded the applicant. "Hold up your right hand," said the Deputy, and he proceeded to swear the man. Then he sent him to the cashier's desk, where the $2.00 was paid and the official license to sell tobacco handed over. The man departed with a very happy face, but in about half an hour he returned, holding the paper aloft in his hand. "What's the matter?" queried the revenue official. "Why, this is a tobacco license?" "Isn't that what you wanted?" "No, I was applying for a position as letter-carrier in the post-office." The would-be letter-carrier got his money refunded, but his easily acquired position had quickly disappeared. He said he thought the Deputy's questions were the new civil service examination, and the $2.00 was the fee for making out his papers of office. The post-office cashier's room used to be where the revenue rooms now are.